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THURSDAY OCTOBER 10, 2019

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Red chopper fans furor



This photo circulating on social media shows the red helicopter of Saipan Helicopters getting prepared for storage at a warehouse

besides the XO Market on Middle Road. CONTIBUTED PHOTO

lagibis finally exits

By MARC A. VENUS

Super Typhoon Hagibis has finally left the CNMI after passing north of Saipan and giving a glancing blow at Anatahan early Tuesday morning.

As of 2pm yesterday, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios

gave the "All Clear" signal for Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan, based on the information of the U.S. National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and at the advice of the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point.

Last Tuesday, Rota was See HAGIBIS on Page 4

ours before the arrival of Super Typhoon Hagibis last Monday morning, pictures of a red he-- licopter parked in front of XO Market on Middle Road circulated on social media, prompting speculations of a possible emergency landing and even some lighthearted comments about "what panic buying has come to."

It also fanned much talk because it is not every day that you see a helicopter parked among cars on Middle Road.

No, the chopper wasn't there for last-minute shopping in anticipation of the See CHOPPER on Page 4



PSS classes resume today

By MARC A. VENUS

marc_venus@saipantribune.com

All public schools will resume classes today, Oct. 10, 2019.

Public School System classes were cancelled last Monday through yesterday as Super Typhoon Hagibis

was passing through the Marianas region.

PSS classes on Rota resumed yesterday, after receiveing the "All Clear" notice last Tuesday. Saipan and Tinian schools were used as emergency evacuation shelters and classes were kept

See PSS on Page 4

ANTONIO 'TONY' URMEYANG PIAILUG Becoming a master navigator

By IVA MAURIN iva maurin@saipantribune.com

After four days of the sacred knowledge, Antonio "Tony"

involved the rigorous "pound-ficially a master navigator. ing" of traditional navigation

"Pwo" initiation rites, which Urmeyang Piailug is now of-"Pwo" ceremony,

See NAVIGATOR on Page 4

a woven coconut leaf called a RowPai around Antonio "Tony" Urmeyang Piailug's right wrist, left, to signify the completion of the "Pwo" rites, as grand master navigator Sesario Sewralur, center, looks on.

INSIDE



NATION

A 9-year-old child is charged with five counts of first-degree murder.

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WORLD

Iraq has been plunged into a new cycle of instability that could be the most dangerous yet.

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LIFE & STYLE

Life imitates art when "The Big Bang Theory" entered the annals of Nobel Prize history.

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2 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

'Islandwide hotel occupancy numbers still soft'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

Nearly a year since Super Typhoon Yutu crippled the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and halted all flights to and from the CNMI in October 2018, the CNMI's tourism industry has yet to rebound to the same level it was before the super typhoon devastated the CNMI. In fact, as Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh describes it, the hotel occupancy numbers are "scary."

In an interview last week, before Super Typhoon Hagibis passed by north of Saipan, Cavanagh said the number of flights or tourists have not come back to the CNM just yet, that it's been a very soft September in terms of tourist arrivals.

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan, like the rest of hotels on the island, is struggling to fill rooms, said Cavanagh, who is also the vice chairwoman of the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors and serves as general

manager of PIC.

Her comments reflect much of the sentiments of many hotel employees, whose hours have been cut, and many restaurants that cater to tourists, which are reporting weak sales.

"It's really...how I can say...scary," said Cavanagh.

For one, the CNMI is having issues with Hong Kong in terms of arrivals. Cavanagh believes that, beginning last month, flights from Hong Kong were suspended when protests happened right at the airport in Hong Kong itself. She noted that when the riots at the Hong Kong airport happened, the CNMI lost the

China market arriving from Hong Kong.

Cavanagh pointed out that Hong Kong is an "extremely lucrative" market for the CNMI, considering that many of its residents have the cash to spend.

She said she is quite sure that the sales of stores such as the Duty Free Shoppers or at the ARC Building and all the other high-end establishments are probably down in September because that particular market is considered an asset.

She said the China market could also be soft because of issues beyond the CNMI's control—the tariff war between the U.S. and China.

Cavanagh noted that there was an advisory earlier this summer where China encouraged Chinese tourists not travel to U.S. destinations.

"Even though...we're trying to make ourselves distinct from the U.S.—and just be an island destination—you

know we are part of the U.S.," she said.

Cavanagh said Korea market has also been soft, going down for the past 20 months.



NAP extends services on Oct. 9-11

Due to the effects of Super Typhoon Hagibis, the Nutrition Assistance Program will be extending the benefit distribution and re-certification services up to 6pm from Oct. 9 to Oct. 11 based on the following schedule:

Oct. 9	Wednesday	Case Records Ending with '5', '6', and '7'
Oct. 10	Thursday	Case Records Ending with '5', '6', '7', and '8'
Oct. 11	Friday	Case Records Ending with '5', '6', '7', '8', and '9'

For more information, contact the NAP office at 237-2842 or 237-2843 or visit its Facebook page at https://www.facebook. com/nap.cnmi. (PR)



JUDICIARY MOURNS

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja lead justices, judges, and courts' staff in lining up to pay their last respects to the late chief CNMI probation officer Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan in front of the CNMI Judiciary building in Susupe. The car that was carrying her casket passed by the Judiciary Friday morning on the way to her funeral services and interment. Lifoifoi-Aldan passed away in San Diego, California last Sept. 21. She was one of the CNMI's most dedicated and longest serving probation officers.

CHC resumes regular operations

By MARC A. VENUS marc_venus@saipantribune.com

As soon as the "All Clear" was declared on Saipan and Tinian yesterday, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. announced that the Commonwealth Health Center's clinics will resume regular business hours.

Last Tuesday, CHCC reopening its hemodialysis and chemotherapy units and its administrative offices and clinical services, Women's Clinic, Children's Clinic, Family Care Clinic, WIC Clinic, Dental Clinic, and Physical Therapy units were to remain closed.

In a statement, CHCC thanked the community for their patience and resilience as the Northern Marianas weathered Super Typhoon Hagibis, but quickly pointed out that the CNMI is still at risk for

dengue, considering the outbreaks in the Pacific region. CHCC urges the public to remain vigilant and take steps to protect themselves against mosquito bites.

The increased amount of rain and debris blown around by the typhoon may have resulted in an increased number of mosquito breedported that it will only be ing areas around the island. CHCC says that it is important to clean up and dump out any debris that hold water as soon as possible to eliminate breeding areas and to take additional steps through its "Fight the Bite" initiative:

- Use EPA-approved insect repellents when outside and follow product instructions/ re-apply;
- Make sure windows and doors have screens that do not have holes and fix any holes in screens to ensure that mosquitoes can't get in; and

■ Cover up by wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants when possible.

CHCC also advises those who experienced an injury during Super Typhoon Hagibis or from cleaning up debris in its aftermath, especially a puncture wound, to see a doctor to ensure proper care.

CHCC also urges the community to make sure to address mental health needs and reminded that the CHCC Crisis Counseling Program YUTU is ready to provide support. Call to schedule an appointment during their open hours: Monday-Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

To make an appointment with a primary care provider at CHCC, contact (670) 234-8950. Contact the CHCC Crisis Counseling Program on Saipan at (670) 286-0227, and on Tinian at (670) 286-0268.

Guam legislature OKs minimum wage hike to \$9.25

The Guam Legislature passed a bill over the weekend that would effectively raise the U.S. territory's \$8.25 minimum wage by a dollar.

Guam Sen. Joe San Agustin's (D-GU) Bill 136-35,

Torres in HI for military meetings

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was in Hawaii for scheduled military meetings during the nearmiss of Super Typhoon Hagibis, leaving acting governor Arnold I. Palacios at the helm of the government during the Category 5 typhoon.

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, Torres was in Hawaii at the invitation of the U.S. Department of Defense to represent the CNMI in meetings with the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, or USINDOPACOM. He said these meetings were prescheduled several months ago.

"The meetings also include a working meeting with the new deputy commander for USINDOPACOM," Bautista said. "He will be there for about a week."

He did not state, though, when Torres left for Hawaii and his exact date of return.

He assured that Torres was monitoring Hagibis from Hawaii and worked closely with Palacios, CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the CNMI's first responders, and other nonprofit organizations during preparation efforts for the super typhoon.

He said Torres and Palacios also worked together on the request to President Donald Trump for the emergency declaration, "which was expedi-

Paradise Dental

which seeks to impose a \$9.25 minimum wage for Guam starting March 1, 2021, now heads to Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero for enactment.

The bill would boost Guam's minimum wage of

tiously approved."

Bautista said that the governor also spoke directly with Federal Emergency Management Agency acting administrator Pete Gaynor in Washington, D.C. for the response

efforts on the ground.

The White House approved Tuesday the request of the CNMI government for an emergency declaration for the Commonwealth in the wake of Super Typhoon Hagibis, which knifed through the CNMI last Monday and Tuesday. Palacios sent the request to the White House Monday afternoon; the White House approved it early Tuesday morning.

"[Torres] has played a very active role from Hawaii to make sure that emergency protective measures are carried out expeditiously these next few days, as this storm continues to move away from the Marianas." Bautista added.

Hagibis, which is currently en route to Japan with maximum sustained winds of 160mph, was described by national media outlets as a typhoon that demonstrated "rapid intensification" by jumping the whole spectrum of the typhoon intensity ranking, from a Category 1 tropical storm last Saturday to a Category 5 super typhoon early Monday morning. (Erwin Encinares)

\$8.25 in annual increments of 50 cents starting March 1, 2020, and ending on March 1, 2021, when it reaches \$9.25.

The Guam legislature passed the bill on Oct. 4, 2019.

"I wish to offer my appreciation to my colleagues who believed in giving our people who make minimum wage the opportunity to bridge the gap in feeding and caring for their families," San Agustin noted in a statement.

"Many hours of work and discussion on the bill allowed us to evaluate the pros and cons and, at the end of the day, our goal in ensuring our people are taken care of is accomplished," he added.

"Guam's workers need a raise and I am proud that the [Guam Legislature's] Committee on Labor could prepare this bill for the floor," said Guam Sen. Regine Biscoe Lee (D-GU) in a Sept. 3, 2019, statement, announcing the bill's departure from the Guam Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, Telecommunications, Technology, and Labor, which she chairs.

"Every Democrat senator [in Guam] stood with Sen. San Agustin and co-sponsored this bill, but I know that we must do more to help working people get ahead," she added.

Besides Lee Guam Sens

Besides Lee, Guam Sens. Jose "Pedo" Terlaje (D-GU), Clynton E. Ridgell (D-GU), Kelly Marsh (D-GU), Telena C. Nelson (D-GU), Sabina F. Perez (D-GU), Therese M. Terlaje (D-GU), Amanda M. Shelton (D-GU), and Guam Senate Speaker Tina Rose M. Barnes (D-GU) sponsored the legislation.

Leon Guerrero has already expressed support for raising Guam's minimum wage in her monthly address last September

"We need to help our people with policies based on democratic principles that support working people like raising the minimum wage. Let's give the 11,000 people in Guam who would benefit from a minimum wage increase a raise," she said in her address.

"A Guam-based study measuring the impacts of the last minimum wage increase found that our GDP went up, that the rate of inflation in the price of goods stayed generally flat, that work hours weren't lost, and that most people stayed on the job," she added. "A large portion of the island's working class comes from the hospitality industry, particularly in food and beverage, and, as minimum wage earners, they can barely afford to pay their bills." (Erwin Encinares)





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NAVIGATOR

From Page 1

which began Saturday at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture Seafaring Traditions Canoe House in Susupe, ended with a special feast yesterday.

"I was excited and happy," Piailug said. "It is so nice for everybody to [see] what we used to do when you become a navigator."

Grand master navigators Ali Haleyalur and Sesario Sewralur arrived on Saipan to carry out the "Pwo" initiation for Piailug. As Haleyalur explained it, "Pwo' means pounding. We have the pounding stone that we pound the taro or breadfruit. The name 'pwo' comes from the pounding stone. It is like pounding all the knowledge into the person. When you are initiated into the 'pwo' ceremony, it means you are getting all the knowledge required for you to learn in the navigational term. And, right after when the 'Pwo' is finished, you are called 'Pwo,'"

said Haleyalur.

"Pwo" is a sacred ritual for individuals who have successfully concluded a rigorous course of training in traditional wayfinding and are initiated into the secrets of master navigators.

Piailug explained that, in

going through the "Pwo" ceremony, one gains knowledge needed to becoming a navigator. He explains that a navigator will have a responsibility to his crew.

"As you become a navigator, that is where you have to make sure you take care of your crew, take care of what's going to happen to your boat in the open water," he said.

With his sacred initiation complete, Piailug now joins members of his family who father, Pius "Mau" Piailug,



Master navigator Antonio "Tony" Urmeyang Piailug, center, poses with Department of Community and Cultural Affairs executive director Robert Hunter, left, and Carolinian Affairs Office executive director John Tagabuel at the closing ceremonies of the sacred "Pwo" initiation yesterday at the DCCA Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture Seafaring Traditions Canoe House in Susupe.

CULTURE



CODEL VISIT

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios, second from left, and his wife. Wella S. Palacios, center, welcomed last Sunday a congressional delegation from the House Veterans Affairs Committee, led by chairman Mark Takano (D-CA), second from right, at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport. Other members of the delegation are, from left, Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas (D-GU), Delegate Aumua Amata C. Radewagen (R-A. Samoa), Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHOPPER

From Page 1

Category 5 howler.

It turns out the helicopter is a private aircraft charter operated by Saipan Helicopters, which is owned by Vertical Aviation Saipan, which also owns XO Market.

The helicopter is a low-flying aircraft that serves as a tourist attraction where they provide passengers a bird's eye view tour of the whole island of Saipan from sunup and before sundown.

Saipan Helicopters is a popular ride among tourist-group of friends and family and among couples, who look at it as an ideal way to make a proposal or get engaged while touring the island aboard the aircraft.

Saipan Tribune reached out

to aircraft owner Sophie Xu and was told that the community need not worry as there was no emergency landing or people that got hurt. "The helicopter landed in front of XO Market so that it can be put in the warehouse (next to the supermarket) to avoid any damage that the bad weather may bring," she said.

The Department of Public Safety is investigating the incident in communication with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration to see if this was a documented and approved flight path.

Super Typhoon Hagibis started as a tropical depression that turned into a super typhoon in just 18 hours, with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph and gusts of up to 180 mph.

grand master navigators.

Piailug said he looks forward to continue working on his project to finish building a traditional canoe.

The master navigator comanages the DCCA's seafaring traditions program, with a project to build the first largescale Chamorro oceangoing vessel in 200 years.

John Castro, project coordinator of the seafaring tradition program, said that, with Piailug now a master navigator, it is both a blessing and an honor.

"We are so blessed and honored that Tony [Piailug] now being a master navigator, he leads us through all of these, from the construction of the canoe, to [sailing] out there [in

the open ocean] where we're reading the stars."

With the seafaring traditions program working to encourage the youth to learn and embrace building canoes and traditional navigation, Piailug, too, hopes for his 3-year-old grandson to be a future master navigator.

"As a small boy, he can learn faster," Piailug said recognizing that it would take years for his grandson to become a master navigator.

If ever, it would be a full circle for Piailug, who started sailing as a young boy too, with his father.

"Pwo" ceremony The was the first one ever held in the CNMI.

PSS

From Page 1

cancelled until both islands were given the "All Clear" notice from the U.S. National Weather Service and acting governor Arnold I. Palacios. Saipan and Tinian were given the "all clear" signal last Tuesday at 8pm.

Acting Education commissioner Charley Kenty said that no PSS school sustained any damage and are ready for classes today. He said that they worked with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to direct those who were staying in shelters to the Office of Aging.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter said that, as of 6:30am yesterday, he was informed by the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority that they will be providing transportation for the shelter's occupants if they would like to go back home or stay in the shelter. He said that they have been working on moving the shelterees out of schools so that PSS could resume classes.

The Northern Marianas College resumed normal classes and office hours yesterday.

Private schools in the CNMI also resumed classes yesterday.

HAGIBIS

From Page 1

given the "All Clear" signal at 5:30pm, while Saipan and Tinian were given the "All Clear" at 8pm. Super Typhoon Hagibis' eye grazed the largely uninhabited Northern Islands very early Tuesday morning, before heading off on its destructive path toward Japan.

Although no "All Clear" signs were given Tuesday morning, teams from the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services were mobilized to clear debris on roads, consisting mostly of fallen branches. Businesses were open as soon as destructive winds died down, as others waited for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to restore power and water to operate.

Super Typhoon Hagibis is the third Category 5 to threaten the Marianas in a span of just 12 months. The other two are Super Typhoon Yutu, which devastated Saipan and Tinian last October 2018; and Super Typhoon Wutip, which hit Guam and Rota last February.

According to an article by Jonathan Erdman, senior meteorologist at weather.com, Super Typhoon Hagibis set a

record for its rapid rate of intensification from a tropical storm early Monday morning, to a Category 5 super typhoon by early Tuesday morning. This means that maximum sustained winds increased by 100 miles per hours in a span of just 24 hours.

All evacuation shelters are now closed and those who have requested to stay back were either moved to the Kagman shelter at the Kagman Community Center or the Aging Center.

CUC reported yesterday that Power Plant 1 in Lower Base is back online, and most areas have power. Water services have been mostly restored but repair work is ongoing in some areas and these are expected to be done by late afternoon yesterday.

As of 2pm Wednesday, Super Typhoon Hagibis was located 395 miles westnorthwest of Pagan, 510 miles northwest of Saipan, and 555 miles north-northwest of Guam.

Super Typhoon Hagibis' maximum sustained winds remain at 160 mph and is forecasted to maintain its intensity through the late evening hours of Wednesday and weaken by today.

NWS and EOC announced that they will continue to monitor the movement of Super Typhoon Hagibis.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 5 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Probe finds drunk crew, structural issues on Kiribati ferry

PERTH, Australia (AP)— The crew of an overloaded ferry that sank near the Pacific nation of Kiribati last year killing 95 people was drunk and the flimsy catamaran was not licensed to carry passengers, an inquiry has found.

Only five passengers and two crew members of 102 aboard survived the fateful journey of the MV Butiraoi ferry. The 17.5-meter (57foot) wooden catamaran departed Nonouti Island bound for South Tarawa on Jan. 18 and began to fall apart 30 minutes later. It sank after two hours.

Commissioned by the Kiribati government, the report found the ship had twice run aground before the journey. The ship's master, who died in the incident, had failed to report to the marine guard prior to departure and did not succeed in sending a distress message.

A radio beacon was not activated and could have been non-functional, the report said.

Eight days after the ferry sunk, the alarm was raised but most victims died at sea from hunger, dehydration and hypothermia. One woman died while giving birth while another person was reported to have died after sustaining injuries when the vessel broke apart.

Four search planes from New Zealand, Australia and the United States scoured the ocean until Kiribati's government decided to suspend the aerial search.

The damning findings found that the catamaran broke apart because of "structural failure" and "poor maintenance record" with the rough weather also contributing to the disaster.

The report found the master had a "complete lack of leadership" during the tragedy, forcing crew staff to make decisions.

It revealed rampant alcohol consumption by the master and crew during working hours, "giving every drunken crew (member) the feeling of grandeur and power to make decisions alone."

The report recommended

the ban of alcohol during working hours and appropriate penalties by ferry owners or operators. It also called for better boat national building standards and a strengthened

code of ethics.

Seven survivors, including a 14-year-old girl, were rescued from a small wooden dinghy after a military plane from New Zealand used radar

to locate the craft. They were found more than 180 kilometers (112 miles) from the nearest major island.

All of the survivors were treated and eventually discharged from hospital.

Kiribati, which has about 108,000 people, one of four of whom live below the poverty line, declared a week of prayer at the time of the search.



The winners of Green Meadow School's classroom-level Scripps Spelling Bee pose for a picture after the classroom spelling bee last

Solicitation for Bids for Repair Work on Mañagaha Island

Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc. ("Tasi") operates a tourism concession on Mañagaha Island under a contract with the CNMI Department of Public Lands. Under this contract, Tasi maintains the pavilions and other improvements on Mañagaha. Super-typhoons Soudelor and Yutu damaged the roofs of six of the pavilions, a BBQ area, and the generator house. Tasi is soliciting formal bids for the repair of these roofs. The award is contingent upon approval by the Department of Public Lands

Bid packages are available now at Tasi's office, Beach Road, Saipan. Boat transportation to Mañagaha to view the pavilions, BBQ area, and generator house may be arranged by calling David L. Igitol at Tasi at (670) 235-9373. Such arrangements must be made by no later than October 21, 2019.

Bids will be due in writing no later than October 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM addressed to Masato Tezuka via email at m tezuka@tasi-saipan.com or via hand delivery in a sealed envelope at Tasi's office on Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

GMS holds 1st round of 2020 Scripps Spelling Bee

As part of the Annual Scripps Spelling Bee, Green Meadow School held its first elimination round, which is the classroom spelling bee, last Sept. 23, 2019. Twentyfive students from first grade to eighth grade emerged as winners.

Each year the school has to enroll in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in order to receive all the materials needed to administer a school spelling bee program, from study lists to competition guides. This year, Scripps had switched

from grade level lists to three levels of difficulty lists. In addition, the school will receive access to pronouncer guides, customizable certificates and the Bee's new study resource, "Words of the Champions." (PR)

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Claimants

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0113

10th AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Esteban Rasiang Nogis in and to the following property:

<u>Legal Description of the property:</u> Tract no. 22703-2, situated in Chalan Laulau, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

Total area of the property: 1,484 square meters

Known encumbrances: none

Date, Time, Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 1, 2019, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, obeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request.

<u>Terms and Conditions of Sale</u>. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd day of October, 2019:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

T.C. International Development Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. T.C. International Development Inc. is proposing to renovate and occupy four (4) existing 2-storey structures with a total of 38 guest units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Motel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1340-B-2 & 1340-B-3 in Navy Hill.

A public hearing will be held on:

Thursday, October 17, 2019 Date: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Place:

Multi-purpose Center, Susupe Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at

the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, October 16, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

Seized N. Korean ship sold, towed from American Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—The U.S. Coast Guard says a seized North Korean cargo ship suspected of being used to violate international sanctions has been sold and towed from American Samoa.

The U.S. seized the Wise Honest in May and towed it to the port of Pago Pago in the U.S. territory.

The parents of Otto Warmbier filed a claim for the ship, seeking to collect on a multimilliondollar judgment awarded in the American college student's death. They say their son was tortured in North Korea after being convicted of trying to steal a propaganda poster.

The Justice Department didn't immediately return an after-hours phone message Tuesday seeking details about the sale.

Before the U.S. seized the vessel, it had been detained by Indonesia in 2018 while transporting a large amount of coal.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School is proposing to construct three (3) structures with a total of 6 beds for its staff housing, and construct another structure for its laundry room. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on E.A. 1734 NEW-15 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Thursday, October 17, 2019

5:00 pm Time:

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, October 16, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

14.4K feet of road projects completed in FY 2019

The Department of Public Works completed construction of 14,400 feet of roadway pavings, traffic signages, drainages, and pavement markings in fiscal year 2019, which ended last Sept. 30, 2019.

These accomplishments form part of the department's various construction projects and completions that began in the early part of fiscal year 2019, DPW said in a statement.

The statement added that an additional 50,160 feet of paving projects is ongoing.

Roads that have suffered through years of flooding and increased use were prioritized for remediation. The funds were appropriated by local legislation. Among them was the construction of Lalangha Avenue, which was appropriated \$472,752 for road rehabilitation and improvement. The road is about 2,700 feet long and 30 feet wide. This project included staking right-of-way, reconditioning basecourse materials, asphalt paving, and permanent traffic signs and pavement markings.

Federal aid money was also used with locally appropriated funds. In 2018, DPW's Technical Services Division received federal aid money for the construction and development of the San Vicente Park.

Additional federal funds were also used to replace, rehabilitate, and construct government facilities, flood control, and drainage structures.

"The importance of the appropriations benefit other road projects in need of permanent repairs," said DPW Secretary James A. Ada. "Paving these roads provide the long-term solution as opposed to the constant repairs of these roads, which evidently costs the government more. We thank the [Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation] for the continued appropriations and the Torres-Palacios administration for approving the

spending measures. With the governor's approval of these contracts, we are able to realize the progress being made around our island."

TSD implemented advanced technique development in AUTOCAD for its engineers.

The program now increases efficiency in A&E construc-

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres himself said, "The improvements mark a milestone of infrastructural achievements that continue to support our people and businesses throughout the CNMI. These developments are an ongoing effort on the part of DPW to align with long-term goals for economic growth and prosperity."

"Training and development courses and certifications were also a pivotal factor in the accomplishment of these government structures," said TSD director Anthony A. Camacho. "In [fiscal year] 2019,

TSD implemented advanced technique development in AUTOCAD for its engineers. The program now increases efficiency in A&E construction designs. In that same year, training was also issued on the Manual of Uniform and Traffic Control Devices for roadway inspectors and maintenance crew. This will now allow for better implementation of traffic devices and executing proper traffic control plans."

The roadway and drainage improvements for fiscal year 2019 include Lalangha Avenue, As Teo Road, Feddos Lane, Puteng Drive, Pine Drive, Maguro Drive, Tasi Lane, Lalangita Drive, and Rota Route 10. These projects include right-of-way staking,

reconditioning basecourse, asphalt paving, permanent traffic signs, pavement markings, and drainage improvements. Total cost of these projects is \$5,082,907.

By fiscal year 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Administration will be reimbursing for various government infrastructure improvements. These projects will produce more jobs and business growth for the construction industry. To assist with job opportunities, TSD is initiating a job training and scholarship program with the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. The program allows for training of underprivileged, disabled, and women for entry into the highway construction workforce. (PR)

Debris-clearing operations continue

Employees of the Saipan Mayor's Office continue to conduct debris clearing operations post-Super Typhoon Hagibis, mostly by clearing roads of fallen branches.

Debra Lynn Camacho, who is the acting Saipan mayor, said that the mayor's office is helping pick up the debris that have been cleared from roads shortly after the super typhoon.

Camacho, who is chairwoman of the Saipan and

Northern Islands Municipal Council, temporarily took over from Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who is in Guam for personal reasons.

The field personnel of the mayor's office immediately began clearing operations soon after the typhoon to ensure accessibility of the roads on the island.

With the "all clear" statement from the Emergency Operations Center, the island should be back to its regular working operations.

Earlier this week, in preparation for Hagibis, the mayor's office helped dismantle tents serving as temporary shelters for homes that were devastated last October by Super Typhoon Yutu.

As Saipan moves forward and resumes its normal programming, Camacho reminds the community to be safe, and that help is always available. *(Iva Maurin)*



ANNIVERSARY BASH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tau Gamma Phi Triskelion Grand Fraternity in the Northern Mariana Islands celebrated its 51st anniversary last Oct. 4, 2019, at the Philcom Pavilion in Susupe, Beach Road.



Amended Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 17, 2019 5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

- A. Preliminary Matters
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of 09/25/2019 meeting minutes
 - 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

- **1. Conditional Use Application #2019-3687:** Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School is proposing to construct three (3) structures with a total of 6 beds for its staff housing, and construct another structure for its laundry room. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on E.A. 1734 NEW-15 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
- 2. Conditional Use Application #2019-3909: T.C. International Development Inc. is proposing to renovate and occupy four (4) existing 2-storey structures with a total of 38 guest units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Motel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1340-B-2 & 1340-B-3 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.
- C. Communication
- D. Old Business
- E. New Business
 - 1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
- F. Executive (Closed) Session
- G. Miscellaneous
 - a. Other Matters
 - b. Announcements
 - c. Next Meeting
- H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Zoning Board Chairman



Galling for NOMINATIONS

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2019 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- Research and Publication in the Humanities;
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;
- Preservation of CNMI History; and
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).

A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. The award may be given posthumously. The nomination form and instructions can be downloaded at www.nmhcouncil.org. Paper copies are available at the council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai. Nominations may be made by any member of the general public and are due no later than 4:00 pm on Friday October 11, 2019.

Awards will be presented at a special ceremony in October (time, date and venue to be announced) For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785 or 235-4787.

MVA attends PATA Travel Mart in Kazakhstan



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. lakopo, third from right, leads the Marianas delegation on Sept. 19, 2019, at the Micronesian Pavilion at Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart 2019 in Nur-Saltan, Kazakhstan. Pictured from left are MVA marketing specialist Hillary Agulto, Palau Visitors Authority board member Yumie Morishita, Guam Visitors Bureau's Kraig Camacho and Karida Brennan, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, PVA board chair Ngiraibelas Tmetuchl, PVA's Alessa Aguon, GVB's Natalia Anoshkina, and PVA's Kadoi Ruluked.

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently promoted the Marianas at the Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart 2019 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

The goal of the travel mart on Sept. 18-20, 2019, was to allow one-on-one business appointments between hundreds of tourism and travel buyers and sellers.

PATA Travel Mart is a "premier travel trade show featuring unparalleled networking and contracting opportunities to help travel and tourism organizations access decisionmakers, meet new clients, expand their networks, establish new relationships and consolidate existing business partnerships," according to its website.

This year's event attracted 1,200 delegates from 63 global destinations.

During pre-arranged meetings, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo led the Marianas marketing delegation in promoting the islands as a convenient destination to the Asian region and as a longhaul destination to the European markets.

"For the last three years, the Marianas has prioritized funding to attend PATA Travel Mart to entice travel buyers to introduce the Marianas to their travel clients," said Iakopo. "Many travel buyers came through the Marianas booth as walk-ins. They were simply drawn by our destination photos and have said their travel clients are looking to travel to new destinations, and the Marianas is one of them.

"The MVA remains an active member of the PATA Micronesia chapter and has received two PATA Gold Awards in the past, one for our Saipan-da character campaign and, more recently, for the Official Marianas Guide Certification Program,"Iakopo added. "Our participation in PATA Travel Mart is an excellent opportunity to grow our professional capacity and industry contacts throughout AsiaPacific and the world."

Iakopo, along with the chairman of the Palau Visitors Authority's board of directors, was also interviewed for the

PATA Travel Mart feature of TTG Daily, a print and digital publication providing live, daily coverage of major travel industry events. (MVA)

GAIN offers \$1K reward for info on decapitated dog found in cemetery

Guam Animals in Need learned yesterday morning that a decapitated body of a dog had been found in the Merizo Cemetery last Friday, Oct. 4. If the dog was illegally killed, GAIN is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of whomever committed the crime.

Based on news reports, Merizo Mayor Ernest Chargualaf learned of the incident from a concerned constituent. His staff confirmed that the dog was decapitated, and the carcass was left on the second level of the crypt. They then collected and disposed of the body. GAIN was not present at the scene.

"We thank Mayor Chargualaf for bringing this horrible incident to light," said GAIN board president Cyrus Luhr. "This is a violent and disturbing situation, and we hope that someone in the community has more information and is willing to

come forward."

"We're fed up with animal abuse. People are scared for their pets, their families, and their community. How much longer must we wait for animal welfare to become a priority?" said Luhr. "We can't turn a blind eye to this sick violence. Once a person decapitates an animal, where does it end? Will more pets be killed? Are people next?"

"GAIN reminds everyone that it's illegal to kill a dog unless in self-defense, and it's never legal to torture or mutilate an animal" said Luhr. "It's hard to imagine a scenario of self-defense that involves decapitating an animal and dumping the body in a cemetery."

GAIN asks the public to share any information they have by calling the Merizo Mayor's Office at 828-8312, the GAIN animal shelter at 653-4246, or Guam Crime Stoppers at 477-4357. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO happy birthday, Rafiqul Hassan! We wish you all the best! Greetings come from your World Tour and Travel family.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

ADDENDUM NO. 1

RFP19-GOV-136 "MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'

October 03, 2019

This addendum is issued to re-schedule the proposal questionnaire deadline and the proposal submission and opening deadline. Issuance Date of the Addendum: October 03, 2019 (Closing Date/Time: October 15, 2019 at 109:30 a.m., Chamorro Standard time is changed to read November 15, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time.

Pre-proposal Questions - Any pre-proposal questions and/or clarifications shall be submitted to Glenna SP Reyes in writing through mail at glenna.reyes@gov.mp no later than 5:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on September 30,2019 is changed to no later than the close of business October 30, 2019. To delete: The Division of rocurement and Supply shall issue any addenda to address any questions and/or arifications as necessary, no later than October 10, 2019. To add: All questions and answers shall be shared with all prospective/potential proposers

Proposers located outside of the Commonwealth may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposals by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notice of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply *no later than 09:30 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time, October 15, 2019* is changed to read <u>no later than 10:00 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time, November 15, 2019</u> and may be transmitted via electronic mail

communication to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp or via facsimile to (670) 664-1515.

Proposals submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by October 15, 2019 is changed to read **November 15, 2019** and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply; P.O. Box 510008, Saipan MP, 96950. The proposal documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan *no later than the* close of business October 24, 2019 is changed to read no later than the close of business November 26, 2019

All other requirements of the Request for Proposal project package shall remain

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION $70\mbox{-}30.3\mbox{-}725$ and $70\mbox{-}30.3\mbox{-}730$ prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES SA, MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR **Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96 Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315



NOTICE RESCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

ASIA PACIFIC HOTEL PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2019-X-045

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Asia Pacific Hotel project in Garapan, Saipan,

The First Pacific Investment Group, Inc. is proposing to renovate, expand, and convert two adjoining 2-story commercial building into a 3-story hotel. The hotel will be located along Royal Palm Avenue and Coffee Tree Mall in Garapan, on Lot Nos, 002 D 08, 002 D 09, and 002 D 10, The hotel will consists of 88 rooms with a lobby at the main entrance, 11 commercial units, generator room. 30 parking stalls with 2 ADA parking spaces and an additional 48 parking stalls with 2 ADA parking spaces which will be situated at a nearby location along Date Street and Coconut Street in Garapan, on Lot Nos. 002 D 21 and 002 D 22.

The public hearing for this project is rescheduled for Tuesday. October 15. 2019. 5PM, at the BECQ Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor, on Middle Road

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Asia Pacific Hotel project.

/s/ Janice F Castro Director

Division of Coastal Resources Management





SUBMISSION DATE: November 12, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

'PAHONG ST. IMPROVEMENT PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES. KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on October 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on November 5, 2019 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/JAMES A. ADA SECRETARY, DPW /s/FRANCISCO C. AGUON **ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S**

Public warned: Seas will still be dangerous

A high surf advisory is in effect until 10am tomorrow, Friday.

A high surf warning indicates that dangerous battering waves will pound the shoreline. This will result in lifethreatening conditions and the potential for coastal inundation and erosion.

Hazardous seas warning was also in effect yesterday

and a small craft advisory is in effect until Friday morning.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, Super Typhoon Hagibis continue to generate dangerous seas and surf in the CNMI.

Large west swells from Hagibis continues to produce dangerous surf along north and west facing reefs of Tinian and Saipan. Hazardous surf is expected in the next couple of days along north, west, and south facing reefs of the Marianas.

Along north facing reefs, surf will be hazardous at 9 to 11 feet today, Thursday.

Along west facing reefs, surf will fall to 10 to 12 feet today.

Along south facing reefs, surf will fall below hazardous levels today.

Southwest winds will gradually subside to between 15 and 20 knots by today, while combined seas of 13 to 16 feet will slowly subside the next few days. Seas may fall below haz-

Along west facing reefs, surf ardous levels of 10 feet Friday.

Hazardous sea conditions are still occurring, though. Recreational boaters should remain in port or take shelter until waves subside. Commercial vessels should prepare for rough seas and consider remaining in port or taking shelter in port until hazardous seas subside.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid sailing in these conditions. Do not venture out along north, west, or south facing reefs and beaches. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. (*PR*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water service status update

All water tank service areas throughout the island of Saipan are now online, except the Dandan and As Falape Tank service areas.

Affected areas are Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Airport Road Dandan, Lower Dandan, As Lito, portions of As Perdido and Koblerville (Tottotville to ABCD Market) and residents of As Falape.

After pressurizing the Dandan TSA transmission line Wednesday night, high pressure occurred, causing the transmission line to break. Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. made the necessary repairs and expected to complete their work by 4:30pm yesterday. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

As for the As Falape TSA, CUC water operators are currently troubleshooting the booster station's pump. Updates will follow as soon as they are available.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). (PR)

Club 200 is postponed

Due to the impact of Typhoon Hagibis on the community, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter has decided to postpone its Club 200, which was scheduled for this Saturday. While the damage from Hagibis was relatively small, we need to consider the following:

- 1. Hundreds of families living in tents were impacted;
- 2. 130-plus individuals still

in school shelters as of yesterday morning;

- 3. Islandwide power and water outages over the past 36 hours:
- 4. Some flooding in lowlying areas;
- 5. U.S. presidential disaster declaration was approved;
- 6. Red Cross volunteers out in the community doing assessments on vulnerable families. (including providing tarps and cleaning supplies).

The Club 200 co-chairs met yesterday to consider alternative dates. (*PR*)

All FHB Saipan branches are back open

All First Hawaiian Bank branches on Saipan opened for business as usual yesterday, Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 9am to 4pm. First Hawaiian Bank customers with Internet connectivity may also access their account information 24/7

via FHB Online and the FHB Mobile app or contact the bank's Customer Service Center at 1-888-844-4444.

FHB's Saipan branches are at the Gualo Rai Commercial Center on Middle Road and Oleai Center on Beach Road. (PR)

Bank of Hawaii resumes normal schedule

Bank of Hawaii's Gualo Rai Branch on Saipan resumed normal operating hours starting yesterday, Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Normal branch hours: Monday through Thursday: 9am to 4pm; Fridays: 9am to 6pm; Saturdays: 9 to 1pm; Sundays: closed. *(PR)*

FOA forms youth choir

Katie Hoyt welcomes anyone ages 12-17 to join the Friends of the Arts Youth Choir. The cost to join is free. The group meet Tuesdays, from 6pm to 7:30pm in Dandan at Hoyt's

home. Call or message her if you're interested at (670) 287-6028. If you don't know the location of Hoyt's home, give her a call for directions. *(PR)*

The Superior Court will be hearing all traffic arraignments set for today, Oct. 10, 2019, at 9am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi- Purpose Center in Susupe. For additional information or assistance, contact the CNMI Superior Court's Office of the Clerk of Court at (670) 235-4258 or 234-4253 or email patrick.diaz@justice.gov.mp. (PR)

Public invited to USNBG Fire Prevention Week open house

SANTA RITA, Guam—The public is invited to the U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services Fire Prevention Week Open House on Oct. 12, from 10am to 2pm, at the NBG Fire Station 6.

Fire Station 6 is located off base next to the Navy Federal Credit Union. No military ID or visitor pass is required.

Fire Prevention Week is a national campaign that runs Oct. 6-12 and this year's theme is "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape!"

The open house will offer fun, educational and family-oriented activities that provide information on the potential risks of fire and how to prevent fires. The open house will provide an opportunity for the public to tour NBG Fire Station 6 and meet the firefighters. Children of all ages will have an opportunity to meet Sparky the Fire Dog and climb aboard the fire engines.

The event will also feature face painting, a photo booth, a mannequin pull, static displays and a children's fire-fighting course.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-029

MAUI 4 WATER TANK DEMOLITION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified contractors for the demolition of the Maui 4 Water Tank located in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on October 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-029 Maui 4 Water Tank Demolition", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2019, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 15, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Acting Drinking Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne Cabrera via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO Executive Director MANNY BOYER SABLAN Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-036

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-036, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on October 25, 2019. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Rid under the contract

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE Acting Executive Director MANNY BOYER SABLAN Purchasing Officer 10 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The 3.5% jobless rate: America's long-awaited boom for low-skill workers

epending on your age now, your memory for anguish and your luck at the time, you may not recall the double-dip recessions that devastated so many Chicagoans and other Midwesterners in the early 1980s. For those who lost their jobs, or woke up daily fearing that they would, it was a soul-crushing passage. From the industrial cities of central New York state west to the taconite mines of Minnesota's Iron Range, the insulting nickname "Rust Belt" overrode the proud phrases "Factory Belt" and "Steel Belt."

Late in 1982, America's unemployment rate surged to 10.8%. Rockford's rate was an agonizing 25%.

So we greet with humility and gratitude the news that the U.S. jobless rate now has fallen to 3.5% the lowest in the half-century since 1969. What's most heartening is that this jobs boom is helping the less-educated, low-skill Americans who've missed out on other, weaker jobs recoveries.

Mark this moment: Millions of American job seekers have prayed for it. The U.S. economic expansion now in its 11th year—having dodged that recession near-miss in 2015—is bringing jobs to the long-jobless. The unemployment rates for workers without high school diplomas and for Hispanic Americans and African Americans are the lowest ever recorded. The rate for workers too discouraged to look for work—even in a jobs boom, they exist—and for underemployed Americans, typically part-timers seeking full-time jobs, is the lowest in two decades and near a record bottom. And wages nationwide, up 2.9% from a year ago, continue to outpace inflation.

All of which reminds us that while federal initiatives to reduce inequality produced slow economic growth for many years after the Great Recession, federal tax reform and deregulation have, by contrast, driven robust hiring. So many people are coming off the sidelines that U.S. employers haven't yet run out of workers to hire. Cue the bromide that the best anti-poverty program is a job.

After Friday's federal jobs report, The Wall Street Journal noted that, a decade ago, many economists thought a 5% jobless rate amounted to full employment, with the economy in balance and inflation neither rising nor falling. How long can 3.5% unemployment, with the economy still growing, continue? Beats us. The global economy is slowing, as is U.S. manufacturing.

That said, we're amused by the doom-and-gloom economists and politicians who, in recent years, have confidently predicted five of the last zero U.S. recessions.

But we once again declare, with 100% accuracy guaranteed to Tribune subscribers, that America's next serious recession truly is approaching! The only question is when it arrives. Maybe sooner, maybe later. Again, beats us.

For now, though, we'll celebrate the fact that a record high 158,269,000 Americans have jobs. May we never return to the corrosive Midwestern joblessness that helped give the Rust Belt—a term now in welcome decline—its nickname.

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Rental agreements: Nine common provisions

ow well do you understand your rental agreement? For many folks, not as well as they should—regardless of whether they are the tenant or the landlord. That's understandable enough. Many rental agreements are saturated with jargon, verbosity, and lakes of legalese seemingly ripped straight from the pages of a 19th century contract

Let's see if we can reduce the confusion. Below are nine clauses that should be in your rental agreement.

First, include the names of every tenant and occupant. Doing so protects both the tenant and the landlord. Why? Because only the people who sign the rental agreement are bound by it. So, if someone lives at an apartment, but has not signed a contract, they are not legally liable for the contract (though there may be other legal avenues for holding them accountable). In other words, having less than all the tenants is bad for the signing tenants because they are taking responsible for the non-signing tenants. And it's bad for the landlord because they have less people to hold liable, including in many cases the tenant who was actually responsible for the problem (whether damaging the property or not paying rent).

Second, describe the rental property as clearly as possible. If the property is a single home, use the lot number and village name (since the CNMI doesn't have street addresses). If the property is a building, say the building, unit number, and village name. If the rental comes with parking spaces or storage areas, say so—including the stall or spot number. If part of the property is off-limits such as maintenance sheds for the property manager, state that too.

Third, write when the rental agreement will start and end. In some cases, this period will be for a set amount of time such as one year. Other times it will be a rolling period such as month to month. If the agreement is for a set time, say whether the agreement can be renewed and, if so, how to do so.

Fourth, spell out not just the rent amount but other key details like when to pay (usually in advance on the first of the month), where to pay (online or at an office), and how to pay (cash, check, or credit card). Also, address what happens if payments are late or checks get bounced (assuming checks are allowed). For instance, is there a grace period before late fees kick in? And how much is the fee for dealing with a bounced check?

Fifth, have a detailed security-deposit clause that covers how much the tenant will pay, what the landlord can do with the deposit, under what circumstances a tenant will need to replenish the deposit, and the procedure for the landlord returning the deposit when the tenant moves out. If the landlord is charging any nonrefundable fees (such as for cleaning or changing locks), say that too. And if you want to get extra marks, also state whether the deposit will accrue interest during the tenancy. Usually it won't.

Having a solid a security-deposit clause prevents stress. That's because disagreements over security deposits are among the most common sources of friction between landlords and tenants. And most of these dust ups could have been avoided with a thor-

FINE PRINT

By JORDAN SUNDELL

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real-estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and

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ough and plainly drafted clause setting clear expectations about how the security deposit was going to be handled.

Sixth, state what repairs the landlord is responsible for and, conversely, what repairs the tenant needs to do. For example, the tenant may need to keep the property clean and take care of standard maintenance like changing light bulbs while the landlord would maintain common areas and cover larger maintenance issues such as a broken oven or refrigerator. It's also typical for these clauses to prohibit the tenant from modifying the property (such as painting walls and other more-extensive alterations) without the landlord's prior written approval.

As with a thorough security-deposit clause, having a well-drafted repairs-and-maintenance clause eliminates many arguments before they start. That's because maintenance issues are a breeding ground for reasonable but differing expectations between landlord and tenant. And those are the kinds of disputes most likely to snowball into bigger problems.

Seventh, describe when a landlord can enter the property. For instance, this clause should say that a landlord can enter immediately in an emergency such as a fire, with 24-hours written notice for repairs, and a longer time frame for other situations. Without this clause, every situation becomes case by case, which invites disagreements

Eighth, each property should spell out its policies for pets and smoking. Landlords can prevent pets (except for service and emotional-support animals). So, if you want a pet, or want to steer clear of pets, check the property's policy. Likewise, landlords can prohibit smoking. If that's important to you, check the property's policy.

Finally, make sure that the agreement contains everyone's contact information, especially an email or mailing address. This information is key because all important communication should be in writing. This paper trail becomes huge if there's ever a serious dispute.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

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Suetdun Empleau

ondu gi monedan familia katsun mantension halum guma`. Este `nai ma`udai i tropa gi kinalamten linala`, diariamente.

Katsun nesessidat familia gi ha'anen niha. Sumaga parehu i suetdu lau tat fektus ti mapegaye aduana (tax) antes de u mabende. Dinanche este na maladisision?

Lamegai besis `nai ta totpe mahatsan presiu mientras i suetdu sumaga sin subrida. Taya` nina` siñata fuera ke ta fan "ñgaha`".

Kuantu i mediu suetdu guine fuera de kase 15-mit na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble? Gi mismu tiempu mampus guaguan attikulun nesessidat siha ke Guam yan Honolulu. Mauleg este?

Gaige mediu suetdu guine (segun repot gaseta) entalu` \$15-mit esta \$42-mit gi sakan. Makat `an ta pesa kontra nesessidat familia ni inipus guaguan.

Lau man-mañgge manma-elihe na taya` priniponen inafagcha` fina1 ayudu para i publiku entalu` presiu yan suetdu? Kau guaha lokue` suetdun miyu gi un` banda ginen kometsiante siha guine?

Hu komprende na gaige fuetsan suetdun empleau gi pisun metgut yan fitme na ekonomia. Yangin pisun ekonomia i propiu ineppe, haf in' petsisige guine na patte? Haf na esplikasion guaha ginen hamyu?

Kumu kabisiyun i tanu` haf` planumu umadelanta suetdun empleau pot para u fan siña gumastaye nesessidat familian niha gi hilu` disiente na eskalera? Kau para in` kontinua suetdun popble?

Leksion

Animu gi obligasion niha man-maestro(tra) ma-esplika haf' siha na neñkanu', fruta yan golai, man-homlu' para estudiante. Todu esplikasion konfotmevu'.

Unu primera problemaña: makat gi manadan familia ni manmamatmus gi halum miserapble na pinepble maprebeniye kabales sentadan i tropa.

I mansañgan pot mansana, peras yan ubas ni unabes `nai patte gi haf` dididi` na attikulun USDA ni maresibe ni mañainahu antes. Pugas, harina, mantika, asiga, yan otru siha attikulu guaha.

Gaige i fruta siha gi guinefihu!

Apmam de man-na'lagu ham fina' sentada ginen attikulun USDA. Alimientosu na pugas ni sessu in' kanu' sin totche. I harina in'fa' titiyas ni in' usune na kafe. Haf' mas para un' chogue 'nai hinegse hau taya' ya todu biradamu parehu un' fafana': taya'?

Tiha choma` ham estau mame man-huyuñg man`epañglau, ayuyu, manog hatsadu, umañg yan amsun. Sapet na fina`pus ni in` siñgun gi fina`pus un` guma` popble. Mit grasias gi mañainan mame ni fitme disposision niha, pasu pot pasu.

Taya' sinetsothu malofan guihe na kañadan pinepble. Ha sediyu' kumomprende haf' pinadesen tautau gi halum chinatsaga. Ha pañgun mas sensian yine'ase' para siakassu guaha hu fagcha'e mas namase' ke guahu. Listuyu' man-ayuda gi maseha haye na kilisyanu!

Mañaina-ta

Tat saina ti u fattu guihe na idat 'nai u faliñgu brinabuña. Estague' na tiempu 'nai debi u fan ma-ayuda ginen i katre, siya, yan otru siha presisu diariamente.

Nafan geftau hamyu ayudu pot hagas ennau na amku` de ha mattitgue` pot hagu. Deste kinano`ña, kepbleña, yan oraña ha utut pot para un` inayuda. Ha chogue gi hilu` minagof yan nesessidat pot hagu ni patgon.

Finu` i kanta, "...para i sainamu muñga in` gratu". 'Nai tiempoña ni unabes 'nai sumeha pot para un' nina'e ayudu gi hilu' minagof yan motmut gineftau maseha mamadedese.

Huli'e gi as nanahu mismu ha mattitgue' pot hame estake in' diñgu i pettan san-mena. Dañkulu na sakrifisiu gi ha'ane para uma-asegura na guaha famaguon niha presisu na nesessidat siha.

Dedikasion!

Huli'e tai deskansu na kinalamten infetmera gi hospitat gi manmalañgu siha. Estabayu' guihe un' pueñge kanaha' kuattru oras. Ni unu huli'e matachoñg ya kabales na attension man-mana'e man-mattu pot minalañgu.

'Nai mattu oran sena kada infetmera gaige na ha attende mala-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



ñgu ni munesessita ayudu. Todu 'nai ma-ekstende kanai niha deste un' patgon ni sige muta' yan un' amku' ni ume'esalau pot puti dinalag dedegoña.

Hu diñgu dispues i hospitat lau ni unu dumeskansa para u sena. Mit grasias pot todu ayudun miyu gi tai achaigua na dedikasion!

Mattiru

Dañkulu na sapet gi un' nana diariamente 'an ha atan taimanu para una' fan nahuñg i tropa gi nesessidat niha.

Gaige dichu chinatsaga gi baratun monedan familia. Lamegai masusede antes de u humanau i patgon para i eskuela sin kabales trastes para usuña.

Mit grasias para todu animun tautau-ta gi halum mattirun suetdun popble ni diariu mafana` sin ditension.

Liñguahe

I maliñgun usun finu` Chamoru komprendiyun gi modetnu na kinalamten-ta. Inatisa este ni mesklan tautau kontodu kasamientu, finu` Eñglis gi famaguon gi gima` esta i eskuela tatte esta i gima`. Inatisa ni ma-abandonan liñguahe gi halum guma` familia mismu.

Ni kuantu na hunta yan konfirensia pot para umanala'la' i liñguahe ti u satba usun diariu yangin taigue gi halum guma' familia. Gaige i yabe gi dos saina. 'An ma-usa finu' Chamoru siempre u fan eyag i famaguon haf' kutturan niha ginen liñguahe.

The Asian American admissions handicap

magine an affirmative action 200-meter dash. If you're African American, you get a five-second head start. If you're white, you take off when you hear the starter pistol. If you're an Asian American high school student, as I am, you have to wait five seconds after the starter pistol before you can go.

This might sound ridiculous, but that's how it sometimes feels, especially in light of the ruling handed down recently in a 2014 case brought against Harvard University by Students for Fair Admissions. The suit alleged that Harvard's admissions policies used race as a predominant factor in evaluating applicants and in so doing set a higher bar for Asian students. Judge Allison D. Burroughs rejected those arguments and said the school's affirmative action policies were fair.

Harvard has said its affirmative action program increases diversity and gives disadvantaged students a better chance of getting in. But every system that gives one group an advantage ends up putting another at a disadvantage.

The problem isn't that Asian Americans aren't well represented at elite universities. At Harvard, for example, the most recent class admitted is about 25% Asian American. The problem is that the admittance rate for Asians—the rate at which they are accepted compared to the rate at which they applied—is lower than for any other race or ethnicity. According to the Harvard Crimson, about 5.6% of the Asian Americans who applied in 2017 were admitted, compared to 7% of white applicants, 6.8% of African American applicants and 6.1% of Latinos.

A 2013 analysis by Harvard, later cited in the lawsuit, examined admissions data to see what would happen if admissions officers judged students only by academic achievements and test scores. Under such a standard, the analysis found, Asian Americans would make up 43.4% of the admitted class, compared to their actual 18.7% share. Even when all an applicants' attributes were considered—extracurricular activities, personal ratings, etc.—Asians were still found to be sorely underadmitted.

Many Asian American students are immigrants themselves, or the children or grandchildren of immigrants. Our families generally came to the U.S. seeking greater opportunities, and they almost all faced high barriers to socioeconomic mobility. They worked hard and broke barriers, only to find their descendants punished by Harvard and other elite schools because of their success.

Both my parents grew up in Taiwan before coming to America to pursue their master's degrees. My dad often tells me how poor he was after he graduated from university and got a job. His wages were so low he slept in his office at night on a Murphy bed that he nailed together with scraps from Home Depot and lived on instant noodles.

He struggled to save money for a down payment on a house, knowing he would have to rent out rooms to make the mortgage payments. But he was determined to achieve his piece of the American Dream.

My parents encouraged me to succeed too, never suspecting that I'd be punished in the college admissions process for meeting their expectations. Even though I spend a majority of my free time focusing on academics and activities that put me at the top of my class, I may very well never make it to an Ivy League university because of my skin color.

It's not that I can't understand the other side. Universities want to build classes that reflect the diversity of the United States. And I know that America is still working to overcome the legacy of slavery, which has condemned many black students to poverty and inferior schools. I also understand that many Latino students have faced similar kinds of deprivation and discrimination.

But in higher education today, Asian Americans also experience textbook discrimination: Some of us are denied admission because of our skin color. We are not admitted to top universities in the numbers our achievements would justify.

The most galling thing of all is that, even as Asian Americans are punished for their achievements, less accomplished children of wealthy alumni and big donors get favored treatment in admissions. How can this possibly be justified?

Another huge problem with admissions policies toward Asian Americans is that they tend to lump us all into a single category of "model minority," when we are in fact a diverse group. Yes, some of us have grown up privileged, but many others have not.

By ETHAN HWANG

Los Angeles Times

Ethan Hwang is a junior at Palo Alto High School, where he is a staff writer for his school's journalism publication, the Paly Voice.



They have grown up poor, sometimes facing the insecurity of uncertain immigration status for their parents or themselves, or struggling to learn English.

Like many stereotypes, the model minority trope does have some basis in fact. I am Taiwanese American, a group with some of the highest household incomes and one of the lowest crime commission rates of any ethnicity. We even have a Wikipedia page highlighting our successes.

But the stereotypes have negative implications too. As a group, we're not considered creative. We're thought to be followers rather than leaders. These things are absurd, of course, as we're individuals with a range of talents. But I worry that it is easier for admissions officers thousands of miles away to assume such stereotypes are accurate.

The fact that we aren't rewarded in proportion to our achievements only serves to worsen competition among my Asian peers, undermining our mental health and straining parent-child relationships. Many of us set unrealistic standards, and we tell ourselves that because of our skin color, we must have the highest GPAs and test scores. I witnessed the downside of that kind of striving first-hand when Palo Alto experienced a suicide cluster in 2008. Six teenagers took their own lives and devastated our community.

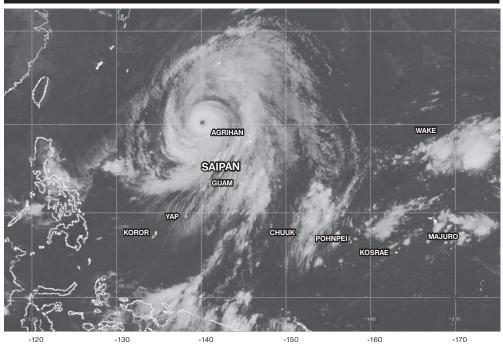
I know of cases in which Asian American students have tried to circumvent affirmative action. They change their last names or lie about their race on college applications. No one should have to deny his or her heritage to get a fair break.

12 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN						
TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY SUNDAY		MONDAY		
<i>چ</i> .:ک	<i>G</i> .	<i>G</i> .	<i>G</i> .	<i>\$</i>		
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		
87° 78°	89° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	87° 78°		

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019 Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon tail associated with distant STY Hagibis is dragging scattered brief but heavy showers and thunderstorms across the Marianas this morning. Fresh to strong south to southwest winds are also associated with this monsoon tail, with winds gusting to 30 kt. Combined seas remain around 16 feet at Tanapag buoy, and 13 feet at Ritidian.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	▲ ▼°F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	87° / 81°

Majuro	Thunderstorm	87° / 81°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	72° / 43°
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 77°
London	Showers	59° / 54°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	80° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorm	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
New York	Showers	61° / 52°
Osaka	Showers	81° / 73°
Paris	Showers	64° / 55°
Busan	Sunny	73° / 64°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 55°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	87° / 61°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	72° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	77° / 55°
Tokyo	Rain	72° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted

through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET					
5:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.48			
I1:39 AM	LOW TIDE	0.26			
6:22 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73			
-	-	-			
֡	5:06 AM 1:39 AM	5:06 AM HIGH TIDE 11:39 AM LOW TIDE			

UO43

UA117/159

5:50am 8:40am

9:15am 9:50pm

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:07 AM	6:00 PM	
Friday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM	
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM	
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM	
Monday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM	

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:03 AM	3:57 PM
Friday	-	3:51 AM	4:35 PM
Saturday	-	4:38 AM	5:11 PM
Sunday	-	5:25 AM	5:47 PM
Monday	-	6:59 AM	7:02 PM

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SAIPAN-				GUAM (GUM)-SA		
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UA105		7:05pm	2, 4	UA104		5:31pm	2, 4
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SAIPAN-	SEOUL (ICN)		SEOUL (ICN)-SAI	PAN	
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OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307			2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626		6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307		12:35am+1	
7C3403			1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625		1:10am+1	
7C3403		8:30am	4	OZ625			1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403		8:50am	6	7C3404		3:40am+1	
7C3401		7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
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JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
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MU764		6:00am	3 5 7	MU763		12:30am+1	2.4.6
IVIO 7 04	1.50aiii	0.00aiii	3, 5, 7	INIO703	4.50pm	12.30a111+1	2, 4, 0
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OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via l
UA117/183		8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174		8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183		9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174		8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GU
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
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OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10nm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721		11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625		1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via l
UO43		8:25am	1	UO42		1:20am+1	
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LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of

Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

UO42

UA116/174

9:25pm 4:20am+1 2, 4, 6

10:45pm 8:07am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN TO ROTA			1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	
FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1204 1205 1206 1207 1208	10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO	SAIPAN			1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT # 3101 3102 3103	DEPARTURE 8:15AM 1:45PM 4:45PM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM 2:15PM 5:15PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1210 1211 1212	4:00PM 5:00PM 6:00PM	4:15PM 5:15PM 6:15PM	Daily Daily Daily
3103	4:4JI WI	J:1JI IVI	Daily	TINIAN T	O SAIPAN		
ROTA TO	GUAM			FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2102 2103 2104	7:30AM 8:30AM 9:30AM	7:45AM 8:45AM 9:45AM	Daily Daily Daily
GUAM TO	ROTA			2105 2106	10:30AM 11:30AM	10:45AM 11:45AM	Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2107 2108 2109	12:30PM 1:30PM 2:30PM	12:45PM 1:45PM 2:45PM	Daily Daily Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	
FLIGHT # 1201 1202	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily	2111 2112 2113	4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily Daily

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 **13**

Business

Johnson & Johnson, Risperdal maker hit with \$8B verdict

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A Philadelphia jury on Tuesday awarded \$8 billion in punitive damages against Johnson & Johnson and one if its subsidiaries over a drug the companies made that the plaintiff's attorneys say is linked to the abnormal growth of female breast tissue in boys.

Johnson and Johnson immediately denounced the award after the jury's decision in the Court of Common pleas, saying it's "excessive and unfounded" and vowing immediate action to overturn it.

The antipsychotic drug Risperdal is at the center of the lawsuit, with the plaintiff's attorneys arguing it's linked to abnormal growth of female breast tissue in boys, an incurable condition known as gynecomastia.

Johnson & Johnson used an organized scheme to make billions of dollars while illegally marketing and promoting the drug, attorneys Tom Kline and Jason Itkin said in a statement.

Kline and Itkin said that Johnson & Johnson was "a corporation that valued profits over safety and profits over patients." Thousands



of lawsuits have been filed over the drug, but the attorneys said this was the first in which a jury decided whether to award punitive damages

and came up with an amount.

Johnson & Johnson said in a statement on its website it was confident that the award would be overturned, calling

h an amount. nnson said in

Legos tests way to recycle bricks

NEW YORK (AP)—Lego is looking to keep its plastic bricks out of the trash. The Danish toymaker is testing a way for customers to ship their unwanted bricks back and get them into the hands of other kids. It said Tuesday that customers in the U.S. can print out a mailing label on its site, dump their used Lego bricks in a box and ship them off for free. Lego said the pieces will be cleaned, put in a box and given to Teach for America, a nonprofit that will donate them to classrooms across the United States. Some bricks will be also sent to the Boys & Samp; Girls Clubs of Boston for their after-school programs. Lego said if the test is successful, it may expand the program beyond the U.S. next year. The company typically tells its customers to keep their bricks or pass them on to others. But some have asked for another way to donate them, said Tim Brooks, Lego's vice president of environmental responsibility. Lego, like other big brands, is looking to please customers worried about plastic's impact on the environment. Plastic doesn't disintegrate but instead can break down into tiny pieces and be eaten by birds or other wildlife, endangering their health.

Boeing to invest \$20 million in Virgin Galactic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Boeing plans to invest \$20 million in Virgin Galactic, looking at possibilities beyond the space tourism company's immediate goal of launching passengers on suborbital flights as early as next year. The companies announced the investment Tuesday, saying they will work together on broadening

commercial access to space and transforming global travel technologies. The sum is a fraction of the \$1 billion Virgin Galactic says it has invested in its program, but Boeing called it a strategic investment rather than about a specific craft that would enable high-speed, point-to-point transportation around the world. "It's really about catalyzing the partnership first and foremost between two companies that bring incredible complementary capabilities to commercial space and to the key technologies needed—and frankly beyond just technologies. The whole end-to-end solutions to bring high speed mobility to the masses," said Brian Schet-

it "grossly disproportionate"

with the initial compensatory

damage award and "a clear violation of due process."

Johnson & Johnson said

the court's exclusion of key

evidence left it unable to

present a meaningful de-

fense, including what they said was a drug label that

"clearly and appropriately outlined the risks associated

with the medicine" or Risp-

erdal's benefits for patients with serious mental illness.

They also said the plaintiff's

attorneys failed to present

any evidence of actual harm.

tent with multiple determi-

nations outside of Philadel-

phia regarding the adequacy

of the Risperdal labeling,

the medicine's efficacy, and findings in support of

the company," Johnson &

Johnson said. "We will be

immediately moving to set

aside this excessive and un-

founded verdict."

"This decision is inconsis-

Twitter says it mistakenly used phone numbers for ads

zonX Ventures.

tler, senior managing director of Boeing Hori-

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Twitter says it mistakenly used the phone numbers and email addresses people provided for security purposes to show advertisements to its users. The company said Tuesday that it "inadvertently" used the emails and phone numbers to let advertisers match people to their own marketing lists. Twitter is not saying how many users were affected. The company also says that it did not share personal data with advertisers or other third parties. Twitter says it fixed the problem as of September 17. Facebook settled with the Federal Trade Commission earlier this year over its privacy missteps. In addition to a \$5 billion fine, the settlement included limits on how Facebook shares data with third parties. Facebook also agreed not to use phone numbers given for security purposes to advertise to people.

US dips in competitiveness index as Singapore takes top spot

GENEVA (AP)—The United States is less competitive than it was a year ago and the global economy remains hobbled by low productivity despite a decade of cheap money from central banks, the World Economic Forum said Wednesday.

In its latest assessment of the factors behind productivity and long-term economic growth, the organization best-known for its annual gathering of the elites in the Swiss ski resort of Davos found Singapore overtaking the United States as the most competitive country, aided in no small part by its state-of-the-art infrastructure and strong cooperation between labor and management.

The Global Competitiveness Report, which is now in its 40th year, said the U.S. is losing ground in measures such as "healthy life expectancy" and preparedness for the future skills needed in the 21st century.

Hong Kong, the Nether-

PORTFOLIO

lands and Switzerland rounded out the top five places in the rankings.

The report's index maps out the competitive landscape of 141 economies based on more than 100 indicators in a dozen categories.

Those categories include headings like health, financial system, market size, business dynamism and capacity to innovate.

The U.S. did remain "an innovation powerhouse" and the world's most competitive large economy, and despite the prospects of a future skills gap, the U.S. still ranks highly for "ease of finding skilled employees" today.

WEF founder Klaus Schwab called the index a "compass for thriving in the new economy where innovation becomes the key factor of competitiveness."

Authors say it's too early to fully assess the impact of some of the operative factors in the world economy over the last year, notably rising trade tensions between the U.S. and China that's led to tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of goods imposed.

They found signs that the trade tiff has led some economies to benefit as businesses look for alternatives to China.

"For example, Vietnam used to be at 77 last year. This year, it's at 67," said Saadia Zahidi, head of the WEF's Center for the New Economy and Society. "That 10-rank increase is in part because the economy has been able to use the current situation in terms of the trade war to attract some of the investments to be able to become a little bit more of a regional trading hub."

Zahidi said there's not enough information yet to assess the full impact of tariffs on competitiveness, but that the restrictive trade measures appear to be linked to a "downturn in business sentiment" that could bode badly for the global economy.

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P 2,893.06 -45.73 -1.56%

DOW 26,164.04 -313.98 -1.19%

NASDAQ 7,823.78 -132.52 -1.67%

	EXCHANGE	RATES
s	Australian Dollar	1.48
term	British Pound	0.82
n U.S. dollar terms	Canadian Dollar	1.33
S. de	Chinese Yuan	7.02
ח	Furo	0 91

Hong Kong Dollar	7.84
Indian Rupee	70.42
Japanese Yen	107.20
Malaysian Ringgit	4.15
New Zealand Dollar	1.58
Philippine Peso	50.79

Russian Ruble	65.14
Singapore Dollar	1.38
South Korean Won	1,170.64
Swiss Franc	0.99
Taiwan Dollar	30.31
Thailand Baht	30.31

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Nation

9-year-old charged with murder in 5 Illinois fire deaths

CHICAGO (AP)—A 9-yearold child accused of causing a mobile home fire that killed three children and two adults in central Illinois has been charged with five counts of first-degree murder.

The juvenile also was charged with two counts of arson and one count of aggravated arson, the (Peoria) Journal Star reported.

The April 6 fire killed a 1-year-old, two 2-year-olds, a 34-year-old man and a 69-yearold woman at the Timberline Mobile Home Park near the village of Goodfield, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) southwest of Chicago.

Woodford County State's Attorney Greg Minger would not reveal other details about the suspect, including a possible relationship to the victims.

No child as young as this one has been accused in a mass killing since at least 2006, according to the AP/ USATODAY/Northeastern University mass murder database. It tracks all U.S. homicides since then in which four or more people were killed (not including the offender) over a short period of time (24 hours), regardless of weapon, location, victim-offender relationship or motive.

Minger said he scoured multiple reports on the fire before proceeding with prosecution. Woodford County Coroner Tim Ruestman said the fire



was started intentionally.

"It was a heavy decision," Minger said. "It's a tragedy, but at the end of the day, it's charging a very young person with one of the most serious crimes we have. But I just think it needs to be done at this point, for finality."

A major challenge for prosecutors will be trying to prove the child formed an intent to kill in advance, which is required in first-degree murder cases, explained Gus Kostopoulos, a former prosecutorturned-juvenile defense lawyer in Chicago.

"Nine-year-olds don't know

that Santa Claus doesn't exist. They don't know people die and don't come back to life," he said. "I don't know if 9-year-olds can form intent to commit murder."

A leading Illinois advocate for children ensnared in the criminal justice system sharply criticized the decision to charge a child that young with murder.

"The charges are completely out of line, given everything we have learned ... especially about the brain development of children," said Betsy Clark, the president of Juvenile Justice Initiative, based in Evanston, Illinois.

ated Press Tuesday by phone from New York, where she was attending the official release of a United Nations report on the prosecution of children. It recommends that children under 14 should never be prosecuted, no matter the crime.

Clark spoke to The Associ-

Clark said 14 is the minimum age of criminal responsibility in many countries, including Germany.

In the 1890s, Illinois became among the first places in the world to establish a juvenile court, thereby taking minors out of the adult sysIn this Sunday, April 7, 2019, file photo, Marie Chockley, a resident of the Timberline Trailer Court, north of Goodfield, III., surveys the damage that was caused by a Saturday night fire that killed five residents in a mobile home.

tem, Clark said. But the case announced this week shows Illinois is no longer on the cutting age of juvenile justice, she said.

"We used to be a world leader and now we are so far behind," she said.

Charges alleging violent crimes against children are rare, said Clark, adding that she hasn't heard of other cases in which someone that young was charged with so many killings.

Millions face power outages in northern, central California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Bottled water and batteries were flying off the shelves at California stores as millions of customers prepared to live without electricity for days in the face of what Pacific Gas & Electric called an unprecedented wildfire danger.

The utility announced that it was shutting off power to 800,000 customers in 34 northern, central and coastal California counties beginning as early as midnight Wednesday to reduce the chance of fierce winds knocking down or toppling trees into power lines during a siege of hot, dry, gusty weather.

Gusts of 35 to 45 mph were forecast to sweep a vast swath of the state, from the San Francisco Bay area to the agricultural Central Valley and especially in the Sierra Nevada foothills, where a November wildfire blamed on PG&E transmission lines killed 85 people and virtually incinerated the town of Paradise.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention said it increased staffing in preparation for extreme fire weather.

The winds will be the strongest and most widespread the region has seen in two years, and given the scope of the danger, there was no other choice but to stage the largest preventive blackout in state history, PG&E said.

"This is a last resort," said Sumeet Singh, head of the

utility's Community Wildfire

Safety Program. However, people should be outraged by the move, Gov. Gavin Newsom said. "No one is satisfied with this, no one is happy with this," he said.

The utility needs to upgrade and fix its equipment so massive outages aren't the norm going forward, he said.

It could take as many as five days to restore power after the danger has passed because every inch of power line must be checked to make sure it isn't damaged or in danger of sparking a blaze, PG&E said.

The news came as residents in the region's wine country north of San Francisco marked the two-year anniversary of deadly wildfires that killed 44 and destroyed thousands of homes. San Francisco is the only county in the nine-county Bay Area where power will not be affected.

To the south, Southern California Edison said more than 106,000 of its customers in parts of eight counties could face power cuts as early as Thursday as Santa Ana winds loomed.

The cutbacks followed a game plan instituted after deadly wildfires - some blamed on downed PG&E transmission lines — destroyed dozens of lives and thousands of homes in recent years and forced the utility into bankruptcy over an estimated \$30 billion in potential damages from lawsuits.

White House vows total halt to impeachment probe cooperation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House declared Tuesday it will halt any and all cooperation with what it termed the "illegitimate" impeachment probe by House Democrats, sharpening the constitutional clash between President Donald Trump and Congress.

Trump attorneys sent a lengthy letter to House leaders bluntly stating White House refusal to participate in the inquiry that was given a boost by last week's release of a whistleblower's complaint that the president sought political favors from Ukraine.

"Given that your inquiry lacks any legitimate constitutional foundation, any pretense of fairness, or even the most elementary due process protections, the Executive Branch cannot be expected to participate in it," White House Counsel Pat Cipollone wrote.

That means no additional witnesses under administration purview will be permitted to appear in front of Congress or comply with document requests, a senior official said.

The White House is objecting that the House has not voted to begin an impeachment investigation into Trump. It also claims that Trump's due process rights are being violated.

House intelligence committee Chairman Adam Schiff tweeted in response that Trump's refusal to cooperate with the inquiry signals an attitude that "the president is above the law."

"The Constitution says otherwise," he asserted.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has insisted the House is well within its rules to conduct oversight of the executive branch under the Constitution regardless of a formal impeachment inquiry vote.

"Mr. President, you are not above the law," Pelosi said in a statement Tuesday night. "You will be held accountable."

The Constitution states the House has the sole power of impeachment, and that the Senate has the sole power to conduct impeachment trials.

It specifies that a president can be removed from office for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors," if supported by a twothirds Senate vote. But it offers little guidance beyond that on proceedings.

The White House letter marks the beginning of a new all-out strategy to counter the impeachment threat to Trump. Aides have been honing their approach after two weeks of what allies have described as a listless and unfocused response to the probe.

The president himself is sticking with the same Trumpas-victim rhetoric he has used for more than a year.

"People understand that it's a fraud. It's a scam. It's a witch hunt," he said on Monday. "I think it makes it harder to do my job. But I do my job, and I do it better than anybody has done it for the first two and half years."

Early Tuesday, Trump escalated his fight with Congress by blocking Gordon Sondland, the U.S. European Union ambassador, from testifying behind closed doors about the president's dealings with Ukraine.

Sondland's attorney, Robert Luskin, said his client was "profoundly disappointed" that he wouldn't be able to testify. And Schiff said Sondland's no-show was "yet additional strong evidence" of obstruction of Congress by Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that will only strengthen a possible impeachment case.

The House followed up Tuesday afternoon with subpoenas for Sondland's testimony and records.

Trump is also bulking up his legal team.

Former Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy is being brought on as outside counsel, according to an administration official. Gowdy, who did not seek reelection last year, led a congressional investigation of former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and the terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

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Asia

UN meets on N. Korea missile test which Europeans condemn

UNITED NATIONS (AP)— The U.N. Security Council discussed North Korea's latest test of an underwater-launched ballistic missile Tuesday and its European members urged Pyongyang to abandon all weapons of mass destruction and engage in "meaningful negotiations" with the United States.

The Europeans read a joint statement after the closed meeting condemning the Oct. 3 test and a series of shortrange ballistic missile launches in the previous weeks.

The statement called the launches "provocative actions" that are "in clear violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions," which ban ballistic missile launches.

The Europeans urged North Korea "to engage in good faith in meaningful negotiations with the United States, and to take concrete steps with a view to abandoning all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner."

"There is no other way to achieve security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region," they said.

The council meeting was told The Associated Press. called by France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Council members Belgium and Poland joined in supporting the statement along with Estonia, which will join the council in January.

Germany's U.N. Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, asked about the reaction of the 10 other council members at the closed meeting, said: "There was actually unanimity around the table, and very critical on what has been done by the North Koreans."

"But everybody also expressed hope that these negotiations which started in Stockholm would restart," he

"There are always nuances," Heusgen said. "I have not seen a Russian delegate say 100 percent he agrees with what the Americans have said, but taking this into consideration, there was a common line around the (council) table."

North Korea's U.N. Ambassador Kim Song denounced the meeting in advance, calling it "dangerous" and telling several journalists on Monday that it will increase "our desire to defend our sovereignty."

He said the United States is "behind the impure moves" of the three countries that called the meeting, saying it would not take place without the consent

of the Trump administration.

The council meeting follows weekend discussions between senior U.S. and North Korean officials in Stockholm that broke down amid acrimony.

The talks were the first since the second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un collapsed in Vietnam in February due to squabbling over how much sanctions relief should be given to the North in return for dismantling its main nuclear complex.

Pyongyang's chief nuclear negotiator Kim Myong Gil told reporters at Beijing's airport on his way home Monday

that "whether or not there are further talks will depend on the U.S." He described talks with his U.S. counterpart, Stephen Biegun, on Saturday as "very bad and sickening," and stressed that the U.S .had "not presented any new initiative."

Ambassador Kim, the U.N. envoy, stressed the timing of the Security Council meeting, which he called "very important."

He said no matter what the United Kingdom, France and Germany pursue, "we will never tolerate this dangerous attempt" and will never sit idly by against those taking issue with what he repeatedly called "our defensive measures."

ASIAN BRIEFS

US bars Chinese officials for crackdown on Muslim minorities

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Trump administration on Tuesday slapped travel bans on Chinese officials involved in a massive crackdown against Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in its west. The State Department said it would not issue visas to Chinese government and Communist Party officials believed to be responsible for or complicit in mass detentions and abuses in western Xinjiang province. It did not identify the targeted officials or say how many were affected by the ban, which can also be applied to their immediate family members. In a statement, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged China to halt its "campaign of repression" in the region, release all those arbitrarily detained and stop trying to coerce members of Chinese Muslim minority groups residing abroad to return to China.

Japan reopens exhibit shut over 'comfort woman' statue

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese exhibit dedicated to censored art reopened Tuesday after being forced to close because of threats over a statue symbolizing World War II Korean "comfort women" sexually abused by Japanese soldiers. The exhibit, part of the Aichi Triennale 2019 art festival, features a "comfort woman" statue and other works previously censored because of themes considered taboo in Japan, such as wartime history and Emperor Hirohito's role in the war. The "Freedom of Expression?" exhibit reopened Tuesday, a week before the end of the 75-day festival

in central Japan, following demands from artists and others. It was shut three days after opening in August in response to protests against the statue as Tokyo's relations with Seoul deteriorated over history and trade tensions. An arson threat escalated fears. Security checks at the exhibit are extra tight, with no bags allowed inside the exhibit hall where the statue of a seated girl in traditional Korean dress, a small yellow bird perched on her shoulder, is located.

More dead wild elephants found at Thai waterfall; toll at 11

BANGKOK (AP)—Wild-

life officials in Thailand said Tuesday they have discovered the carcasses of five more wild elephants downstream from a waterfall where the bodies of six other elephants were found last weekend. The carcasses were discovered by a drone being used to investigate how the first six elephants plunged to their deaths at the Haew Narok—Ravine of Hell-waterfall in Khao Yai National Park in northeastern Thailand, said Sompote Maneerat, spokesman for the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department. Park officials said the first group of elephants evidently died when trying to reach a dead calf. The new victims are thought to have come from the same herd. The ravines usually fill up with gushing water during the rainy season. Sompote said that the death toll of 11 is the highest number of elephants to die in a single incident in Khao Yai. Eight elephants died at the same waterfall almost 30 years ago. The elephant population at the park is estimated to be about 300.



People pass by a TV showing a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019.

Thai activist arrested for comments about fall of monarchies

BANGKOK (AP)—Police in Thailand have arrested a political activist accused of threatening national security by posting a comment on Facebook about how royal families in other nations lost power.

The arrest Monday night of Karn Pongpraphapan came after an unprecedented amount of social media commentary last week that implicitly criticized Thailand's monarchy by complaining about congestion caused by police blocking traffic for the motorcades of royal family members.

Criticism of the monarchy is taboo, and sharing material deemed insulting to it is punishable by 3-15 years' imprisonment.

The blocking of traffic for royal vehicles has long been the subject of private grumbling, but recent road congestion unleashed a torrent of tweets with the Thai language hashtag meaning #royalmotorcade, some veering into sharper comments. The hashtag was used hundreds of thousands of times.

day by the police Technology Crime Suppression Division referred to "inappropriate hashtags" that circulated last week on social networks and were allegedly created by an unscrupulous group of people. It accused the arrested suspect, who was not identified by name in the statement, of posting "inappropriate content" on his Facebook page "spreading hatred."

Thai media reported that Karn's Facebook post referred to the fall of monarchies in

Russia, France and Germany, but not Thailand.

The police statement said the post received around 100 comments and 50 shares, causing "a number of people to be very upset."

In reaction, Minister of A statement issued Tues- Digital Economy and Society Buddhipongse Punnakanta was said to have ordered the police technology division to investigate, leading to the arrest. Police charged Karn under Section 14 of the Computer Crime Act, "posting contents that are a threat to national security," an offense punishable by up to five years in prison. He was released on bail Tuesday afternoon and ordered by the court not to post similar comments again.

> Karn's lawyer, Winyat Chatmontree, told The Associated

Press that his 25-year-old client was arrested for posting about foreign history on his Facebook page on Oct. 2, and took down the post after a few hours when it became controversial.

"I think the authorities want to make an example of him to send a message to others who express their minds freely on many issues," Winyat said. He said Karn had nothing to do with the motorcade hashtag.

An arrest was not surprising in view of the attention the hashtag attracted. Digital Economy Minister Buddhipongse announced Sunday that his office and the police would soon arrest those who used offensive words about the Thai royal family. He appeared to be reacting to criticism from royalists who accused him of failing to act.

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World

Iraq's uprising an open crisis with no known path forward

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq has been plunged into a new cycle of instability that potentially could be the most dangerous this conflict-scarred nation has faced, barely two years after declaring victory over the Islamic State group in a war that left much of the country in ruins and displaced tens of thousands.

The latest bloody confrontations have killed more than 100 people in less than seven days. But this time, the clashes do not pit security forces against Islamic extremists, the country's Sunnis against Shiites, or insurgents against occupation forces.

Instead, Iraqi security forces have been shooting at young Iraqis demanding jobs, electricity and clean water — and an end to corruption.

It's still unclear why the government chose to exercise such a heavy-handed response to a few hundred unarmed demonstrators who first congregated last week on social media to hold a protest. But analysts say the violence has pushed Iraq toward a dangerous trajectory from which it might be difficult to pull back.

As the spontaneous protests —with no apparent political leadership emerging—continued to clash with security forces in Iraq cities and towns, the government appeared unapologetic and failed to offer solutions to entrenched problems, raising



fears that yet another Arab nation will be mired in a long-term crisis without a path forward.

"The use of force coupled with cosmetic concessions will work to temporarily ease pressure but will not end the crisis," wrote Ayham Kamel, Middle East and North Africa head at protests could be contained, but the political system will continue to lose legitimacy."

In their demands for better

services and an end to corruption, the protesters are no different from those who rioted in the southern city of Basra over chronic power cuts and water pollution last summer. Or in 2016, when angry demonstrators scaled the walls in Baghdad's highly secured Green Eurasia Group. "This cycle of Zone and stormed Iraq's parliament, shouting "thieves!"

But unlike in 2016 when the protests were led by populist Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, today's protests have not been coopted by any political party. Most are young men in their twenties. They do not have a clear list of demands or a program, nor do they have a spokesman to speak on their behalf. Some are teenagers or fresh university graduates unable to find jobs in a corruption-plagued country that sits on some of the world's biggest oil reserves.

Their movement—if it can be called that—has no clear contours, nor any quick solutions. The protesters say they

US pullback could boost Islamic State group revival in Syria BEIRUT (AP)—The American pullback from parts of northeastern Syria could help breathe new life into the Islam-

ic State group if fighting erupts

between the Kurds and Turkey. Syrian Kurdish authorities are already struggling to guard IS fighters captured during the long U.S.-backed campaign against the militants and to keep a lid on IS supporters and family members thronging displacement camps. Their hold will suffer even more if they are fighting Turkey.

The White House has said Turkey will take over responsibility for the thousands of imprisoned fighters. But it is not clear how that will happen, if it all, given that the Kurdish forces are Turkey's nemesis.

Turkey is sending troops along the border in preparation for an offensive against the Syrian Kurds. Ankara has said it wants to impose a zone of control potentially 30 kilometers (19 miles) deep that would stretch the length of the border. The Kurdish-led Svrian Democratic Forces have

are fed up with the entire post-2003 political class which profiteers on kickbacks, nepotism and corruption while ordinary Iraqis drink polluted water and endure massive unemployment.

And most strikingly, the protests are predominantly Shiite demonstrations against a Shiite-led government.

Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi has promised to address protesters' demands. But the 77-year-old premier began his tenure last year facing a raft of accumulated challenges, inAnti-government protesters set fires and close a street during a demonstration in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019.

cluding high unemployment, widespread corruption, dilapidated public services and poor security, and he has told protesters there is no "magic solution for all that."

The crisis erupted on Oct. 1 after protesters who had organized on social media staged a demonstration calling for their rights. They were met with water cannons, tear gas and bullets. The demonstrations were partially triggered by anger over the abrupt removal of a top Shiite military who led battles against Islamic State militants and was largely seen as a non-corrupt, respected general. But the protesters carried a long list of grievances.

The protests come at a critical moment for Iraq, which had been caught in the middle of escalating tensions between the United States and the regional Shiite power Iran—both allies of the Baghdad government. Iraq's weak prime minister has struggled to remain neutral amid those tensions.

Adding to the nervousness, mysterious airstrikes blamed on Israel had for weeks targeted military bases and ammunitions depot in Iraq belonging to Iran-backed militias, which vowed revenge against Americans troops stationed here.

Invasion of northeast Syria carries gain and risk for Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)— Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has long threatened to send troops into northeastern Syria to clear the border region of Syrian Kurdish fighters whom Turkey considers a serious security threat.

A Turkish invasion looks more likely after President Donald Trump's sudden announcement that U.S. troops, who had fought alongside the Kurds against Islamic State group, would withdraw from

Here is a look at what Turey wants to achieve in the area, and the risks and challenges it faces by getting even more deeply involved in the Syrian crisis.

Turkey wants to create what it calls a "safe zone" in a stretch of territory along its southern border with Syria that is currently controlled by Syrian Kurdish fighters, known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG.

Turkey considers the YPG as terrorists affiliated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a 35-year-long battle against the Turkish state. Ankara also views the YPG-controlled zone as an "existential threat."

Erdogan has demanded a "safe zone" that is 30 kilometers (20 miles) deep and stretches more than 480 kilometers (300 miles) toward the Iraqi border. He initially had hoped to do it in collaboration with the United States but grew frustrated with what he considered to be delaying tactics by the U.S.

Once secured, Turkey wants to resettle the area with 2 million Syrian refugees who fled to Turkey due to the conflict in their home country. How such a massive resettlement would be carried out is unclear. Human rights groups have warned that any escalation of fighting in the area could displace hundreds of thousands more people.

Erdogan has spoken of plans to build towns, villages, hospitals and schools but also says Turkey, which has already spent some \$40 billion on the refugees, cannot afford to do it alone. He has said he will convene a donors conference to help meet the cost and has called on European nations to share the burden, warning that Turkey could be forced to open the "gates" for an influx of migrants to Western nations.

Turkey has carried out two previous incursions into northern Syria in recent years with the help of Syrian rebels. In the first offensive in 2016, Turkey pushed back Islamic State group militants west of the Euphrates River. In the second operation last year, Turkey captured the Syrian-Kurdish controlled enclave of Afrin. Those regions are currently administered by Turkish-backed opposition groups who run them as virtual Turkish-administered towns.

Analysts say this operation would likely be more complicated. Unwilling to let go of an area they wrested from the Islamic State group, the battle-hardened Kurdish fighters-trained and equipped by the U.S. — have vowed to fight the Turks until the end.

vowed to fight back.

Here is a look at what is at stake and why IS stands to gain.

MILITANTS IN DETENTION

Angered by the sudden pullback of U.S. troops, Kurdish officials sounded the alarm that, to fight any Turkish assault, they will have to divert their forces away from guarding IS prisoners. That raises security concerns at a time when the Islamic State group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, has called on followers to do all they can to free captured fighters held in jails and families living in camps.

Kurdish authorities run more than two dozen detention facilities, scattered around northeastern Syria, holding about 10,000 IS fighters. Among the detainees are some 2,000 foreigners, including about 800 Europeans.

Most of the facilities are unidentified and unmarked, some of them set up in abandoned or repurposed buildings: others are mobile "pop-up prisons."

Some are reportedly close to the border, which may make them vulnerable to being hit in clashes or bombardment.

Guarding those facilities has long been a strain on the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces as it juggles multiple tasks in the volatile area. The U.S-led coalition has said the force doesn't have the capacity to detain thousands of fighters on its own-and the coalition may be helping to hold some of the most high-level militants.

Handling the prisons while defending against Turkish troops will be even more difficult.

"How will I even protect these facilities?" Abdulkarim Omar, a senior Kurdish official, said. "The Turkish attack is an existential threat. (The Kurdish) forces will be busy with fending it off."

At least two prison facilities, including a former government prison, are located in Qamishli and Hassakeh, where Syrian government forces maintain a presence, even though the cities are largely administered by the Kurdish-led group.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 **17**

Focus



ONG KONG (AP)—As riot police fought anti-government demonstrators on the streets of Hong Kong over the weekend, two photos

popped into the encrypted inbox of a group of volunteer medics who call themselves the "Hidden Clinic."

The images showed the nastily swollen left arm of a 22-year-old protester who had been beaten and were accompanied by a message from the sender that said, "I suspect his bone is broken."

After exchanges through the night via the Telegram messaging app that arranged an off-the-books X-ray, the protester was diagnosed with a displaced fracture of the ulnar bone.

With Hong Kong's summer of protests now stretching into the fall and clashes becoming increasingly ferocious, medical professionals have quietly banded together to form the Hidden Clinic and other networks to secretly treat the injuries of many young demonstrators who fear arrest if they go to government hospitals.

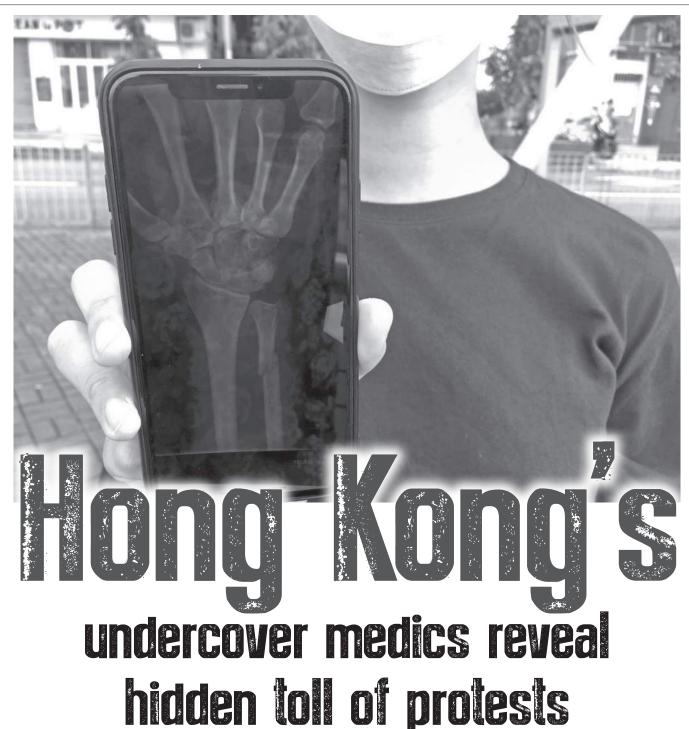
The person who messaged the network on the injured protester's behalf later explained the youth's wariness by saying, "Many of his friends have been detained when seeing doctors."

The Hidden Clinic says it has clandestinely treated 300-400 protesters with an array of injuries: broken and dislocated bones, gaping wounds and exposure to tear gas so prolonged that they were coughing up blood. It also says the severity of the injuries has increased sharply in the past week, with hard-core protesters and police increasingly tough on each other.

Full Coverage: Hong Kong A practitioner who specializes in traditional Chinese medicine and is not affiliated with Hidden Clinic says she alone has treated 60-80 patients, some with multiple wounds from tear-gas canisters and other riot-control projectiles. The woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she fears reprisal during her frequent trips to the mainland, uses acupuncture to ease their pain and doesn't charge for her services.

This behind-the-scenes doctoring, outside of government hospitals, suggests that the official toll of 1,235 injured protesters treated in public hospitals since June 9 significantly undercounts both the number and full extent of those hurt in the more than 400 demonstrations tallied by the government.

Hong Kong's chief execu-



By JOHN LEICESTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

tive, Carrie Lam, says the casualty count includes injuries to more than 300 police officers. The government tally, compiled by the Hospital Authority, only counts patients who visited 18 public Accident and Emergency departments in the territory of 7.5 million people, not those treated privately.

The protests were triggered in June by a now-abandoned measure that would have allowed criminal suspects to be extradited for trial in Communist Party-controlled courts in mainland China. They've flared into sustained fury against Lam's government, testing commitments from Communist leaders in Beijing not to interfere in the internal affairs of Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous hub for international trade and finance that reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

The full scope of the clandestine efforts to treat protesters isn't clear, because both the injured and the medics want to protect themselves in the atmosphere of deep distrust that has put Hong Kong on edge. But interviews by The Associated Press with four practitioners and with protesters treated outside the government health system show it is extensive, underscoring the support that the demonstrators enjoy.

One trainee doctor, who wouldn't give her full name and asked to be identified only as Wong for fear she would damage her career, said her supervisor at a major public hospital doesn't know of her involvement with Hidden Clinic.

After her regular shifts, she spends her nights dealing with a steady stream of injured protesters, giving them quick, initial diagnoses via text message and photo, and dispensing advice. She then reaches out to the network's behind-the-scenes doctors, arranging more extensive consultations and treatment—and even help with any costs.

When the protests began, Wong said she used her medical skills on the front lines. She helped assemble Hidden Clinic at the end of July because "I realized the injuries are getting more severe," she said.

Its name reflects its low profile—its Telegram logo is a bear wearing an identity-concealing surgical mask—but also the many unreported injuries its volunteers see.

"Data published by the government aren't really accurate anymore, and there are a lot of hidden injuries," Wong said.

With many distrustful of Lam's government, and by extension its hospitals, "patients would rather endure the pain and not get arrested," she said.

For some injuries, Hidden Clinic dispenses temporary treatment that allows protesters to wait a few days before going to an Accident & Description of the protection of the pr

"You can just say that, oh, you got injured while playing football or something," Wong said.

Early Monday, when police

again battled black-clad protesters after peaceful rallies that drew tens of thousands of marchers, Hidden Clinic's cases included a protester who messaged a photo of a gruesome neck-wound—round, the size of a plum, dark at the edges and seemingly caused by a rubber bullet. The victim, in his 20s, said he was having difficulty swallowing.

"It was quite alarming," Wong said. They quickly found a private surgeon who treated him in his own clinic. The man then asked Hidden Clinic to delete any record of their Telegram interactions.

Wong also arranged treatment for the 22-year-old with the broken arm, as well as two other people with wounds that needed suturing. The appeals began arriving from 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. Sunday, and she finished about 4 a.m., before dealing with more cases later in the day, she said.

Asked about protesters' fears of public wards, the Hospital Authority said in a statement to AP that it "upholds the

In this Oct. 7, 2019, photo, an organizer of an underground network of volunteer Hong Kong medics that are treating injured protesters shows an X-ray image on her mobile phone that revealed a fracture above the left wrist of a protester in Hong Kong. The 22-year-old protester, too scared to seek treatment in government hospitals, reached out to the network using an encrypted messaging app and said he'd been struck by a baton on his arm.

importance of patient confidentiality, which is the cornerstone of patient confidence" and "has also reminded law enforcement departments to be mindful of the respect for patient data privacy in hospitals."

The protesters aren't convinced.

"Government hospitals have police," said a 19-year-old who came prepared for trouble at Sunday's protest, wearing a metal shield on his left arm, a hardened helmet with full-face reflective visor, protective pads on his knees, elbows and shoulders, a gas mask, a walkie-talkie and a black jacket reeking of tear gas.

Struck under his right armpit by a rubber bullet in a previous skirmish, the student said he used Telegram to find free treatment from a private clinic that diagnosed bruising but no broken ribs. He identified himself only as John, for fear of retaliation.

In a detention that seemed to confirm the concerns of protesters that government clinics aren't safe, a pregnant 19-year-old detained Monday was being watched over by two policewomen in the maternity ward of the Tuen Mun Hospital, according to the hospital.

An 18-year-old who was struck on the head by a teargas canister on Oct. 1, when Hong Kong shook with protests, rioting and the police shooting of a protester, said she turned to Hidden Clinic to treat dizziness, vomiting and headaches because "I may be arrested if I go to the government hospital." She refused to give her name.

"I can't believe the government," she said. "The government will use any ways to find out the protesters."

Clandestine doctors say they feel compelled to help.

"These kids are striving for a whole era's freedom," said the Chinese medicine practitioner who devotes one evening per week to treating protesters, seeing as many as a dozen each time. "For those of us who don't dare go out, the very least we can do is treat their wounds."

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Environment

ERKELEY, Calif.—
Driving is not just an air pollution and climate change problem—turns out, it just might be the largest contributor of microplastics in California coastal waters.

That is one of many new findings, released Wednesday, from the most comprehensive study to date on microplastics in California. Rainfall washes more than 7 trillion microplastics, much of it tire particles left behind on streets, into San Francisco Bay each year — an amount 300 times greater than what comes from microfibers washing off polyester clothes, microbeads from beauty products and the many other plastics washing down our sinks and sewers.

These tiny plastics, invisible to the naked eye, have been vilified for tainting water and wildlife but are notoriously difficult to study. They're everywhere and seemingly come from everywhere. They wash into the ocean in all different shapes and sizes, many covered with dyes and chemicals. Scientists and labs across the state, country and world haven't even agreed on how exactly to measure or sample or study them.

So a team of researchers, led by the San Francisco Estuary Institute and 5 Gyres, a nonprofit research group focused on reducing plastic pollution, set off to create an inventory of sorts

to identify all the ways these different microplastics were getting into the San Francisco Bay. They analyzed hundreds of samples from fish, sediment, surface water, wastewater and stormwater runoff and tried to trace the origins of all these particles.

Mark Gold, who heads the state's Ocean Protection Council and was recently appointed the state's deputy secretary for ocean and coastal policy, said he was surprised that car tire particles were such a large source.

"I'm so used to thinking of the toxics that come from urban runoff and not the actual physical particles from something like tire dust," said Gold, who has worked for 30 years on cleaning up California's beaches and oceans from toxic chemicals. "But the sheer number of particles ... the scope and scale of this problem makes you realize that this is something that's definitely worth looking at a great deal more seriously."

Once plastic enters the environment, it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces but never goes away. The tiny particles make their way into the ocean, into the stomachs of marine animals, and ultimately become part of the food and water people consume.

A recent UC Davis study sampled seafood sold at local markets in Half Moon Bay and found that one-quarter of fish and one-third of shellfish contained plastic debris. A survey comparing 150 tap-water samples from five continents found synthetic

microfibers in almost every sample — 94% in the United States.

Microplastics have been found in Lake Tahoe, in the deep, deep ocean — even in the Arctic, one of the most remote regions in the world. A scientific review of 52 studies recently concluded that humans on average consume a credit card's worth of microplastic each week. The European Union is trying to classify microplastics as a contaminant that is unsafe at any level of discharge.

"We're using more and more plastic and it's showing up as a footprint on the seafloor," said Jennifer Brandon, a microplastics biologist at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography whose research found that since the 1940s, the amount of microscopic plastics has doubled about every 15 years. "It begs the question: Is this what our civilization is going to be remembered for?"

Microplastics are commonly defined as plastic particles smaller than 5 millimeters and classified into five general shape categories: Foam, "sphere or pellets," such as microbeads; jagged "fragments" from larger plastic debris; "film," such as breakdowns from plastic bags and wraps; and "fibers," from the likes of textiles, fishing gear and even cigarette filters. Rubber is also considered plastic, both natural (isoprene) and synthetic (styrene butadiene).

These particles often contain harmful chemical additives such as flame retardants or plasticizers, but the overwhelming diversity in size and chemical composition also makes toxicity difficult to predict, let alone study.

What's missing right now is a systematic approach to evaluating all these different microplastics — when every study does it differently, it's hard to compare results, said Susanne Brander, an ecotoxicologist at Oregon State University.

As for rubber fragments, they can be toxic because of the fossil-fuel-associated compounds that they're likely picking up. The San Francisco findings, Brander added, are a window into other populated coastal areas with so many bridges and roads crisscrossing the watershed.

San Francisco Bay is a good laboratory for investigating this emerging contaminant in an urban environment. Essentially a bathtub surrounded by more than 7 million people, it ends up trapping many of the contaminants before they disperse into the greater ocean.

In the latest study, a three-year, \$1.1-million effort by a large team of researchers and policymakers, microplastics from almost 400 hundred samples were identified and analyzed with microscopes, tweezers and lasers. By establishing new standards for doing a large-scale study of a major estuary and creating a baseline for all these diverse plastics, scientists found clues on where all the particles were coming from.

"We wanted to come up with

methods that could be duplicated anywhere in North America — to measure the sources, pathways and fates of those various particles ... so that we could standardize a definition of the problem," said Warner Chabot, executive director of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, an independent science think tank whose boarddraws both from regulating agencies and those being regulated for water quality, as well as public interest groups.

"The goal was to provide the data and the science to define and quantify the microplastic problem and inform policy solutions."

Researchers collected anchovies and smelt from six sites in the bay and found they had higher particle counts — particularly of man-made microfibers — than those tested in more undeveloped areas. These prey fish are a critical link between contamination in sediment and seawater and the rest of the food web — an indicator of exposure to larger predators and ultimately humans.

Eight wastewater treatment plants in the Bay Area were also examined. More than 90 million microparticles are discharged into the ocean every day through the facilities, the report said.

Sediment samples were also collected from 20 sites. Scientists found the highest concentrations of microparticles in the lower South Bay, which receives large volumes of wastewater and stormwater discharges.



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Life & Style

Couple get month sentence in college bribery scandal

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP EDUCATION WRITER

BOSTON (AP)—A business executive and his wife, a former journalist, were each sentenced to a month in prison Tuesday for paying \$125,000 to rig their daughter's college entrance exams in a scandal involving dozens of wealthy and sometimes famous parents.

Gregory and Marcia Abbott, of New York and Colorado, were sentenced in Boston's federal court after pleading guilty to a single count of fraud and conspiracy. They follow five other parents who have been sentenced so far, with prison sentences ranging from 14 days to five months.

The Abbotts paid \$50,000 to have a test proctor correct their daughter's ACT exam answers in 2018, along with \$75,000 to rig her SAT subject tests in math and literature, authorities said. They kept the scheme hidden from their daughter.

Prosecutors had pushed for sentences of eight months in prison and a \$40,000 fine for each parent. They said the couple planned to use the test scores to get their daughter into Duke University, where Marcia Abbott had received



Gregory Abbott, far left, and his wife Marcia, far right, get into a car as they leave federal court after their sentencing in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, in Boston.

an English degree.

In a Sept. 27 letter to the court, Gregory Abbott said that his actions were "wrong and stupid" and that he feels "genuine remorse."

"I share the same sensi-

bilities as most people and, strange as it may sound, identify with the public outrage over my own actions," he wrote. "I accept full shame and responsibility."

Gregory Abbott, who lives

in New York City, was chairman and CEO of International packaging company, in New York until he took a leave of absence in March. Marcia Abbott, who lives in the couple's home in Aspen, is a former

A wedding announcement in 1987 said she was a former fashion editor for Family Circle.

Meanwhile, the case's lead prosecutor said he plans to recommend longer prison sentences for "Full House"

parents contesting the charges against them.

Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling said in a Sunday interview with Boston's WCVB-TV that the longer Loughlin fights the charges, the longer her recommended sentence will be.

"Let's say she goes through to trial: If it's after trial, I think certainly we'd be asking for something substantially higher. If she resolved her case short of trial, something a little lower than that," Lelling said.

Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, are accused of paying \$500,000 to get their two daughters into the University of Southern California as fake athletes. They have pleaded not guilty.

Lelling added that actress Felicity Huffman's sentence of 14 days in prison was "reasonable." The "Desperate Housewives" star was sentenced Sept. 13 after she admitted to paying \$15,000 to rig her daughter's SAT score.

"Huffman was probably the least culpable of the defendants who we've charged in that case," Lelling said. "She took responsibility almost immediately. She was contrite, did not try to minimize her conduct. I think she handled it in a very classy way," Lelling said.

Timothée Chalamet grows up with 'The King'

VENICE, Italy (AP)—There aren't many directors who would be happy about a film taking nearly seven years to get off the ground, but that's precisely the case with David Michôd's "The King." The long development process, delays and studio changes for his and Joel Edgerton's vision for a Henry V film had a silver lining. By the time they were ready to go, an exciting new talent had emerged: Timothée Chalamet.

"It was a beautifully fortuitous thing that it took us that long to get made," Michôd said last month after its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival . He looked over at his young star and laughed. Had the film been made when he and Edgerton wrote it, not only would Chalamet not have been on their radar, he also would have been only 12 years old.

"The King" opens in select theaters Friday before landing on Netflix on Nov. 1.

Still, it wasn't even a given that Chalamet and Michôd would cross paths. But a friend suggested that he see "Call Me By Your Name," thinking maybe the "kid in it" would be good for the part of Hal, the reluctant heir to the throne who will become King Henry V. Michôd went in a little skep-

tical—people are always making suggestions to him and most don't result in anything—but he had a bit of a revelation watching the tender, sun-soaked Italian romance.

"THAT's the ver-

Chalamet

sion of 'The King' I want to make," he said. "I loved the idea of taking that kid from that movie and starting 'The King' with him and turning him into something elsehardening him and making him almost tyrannical ... (But) I never thought I'd be casting a 22-year-old New Yorker to play Henry V."

Chalamet had been doing mostly present day or recent past films and liked the notion of being in something completely different. He also latched on to the "allegory" about Elio, his "Call Me By Your Name" character. So he said yes, days before he'd find out he'd gotten his first Oscar nomination for that film.

"There felt like a beautiful irony and challenge in that I was a young American playing a historical British figure, directed by and working with a bunch of Australians," Chalamet said.

> Michôd chimed in, a "recipe for disaster."

> The film is an ambitious melding of historical fact and fiction, loosely inspired by Shakespeare's "Henry

V" and "Henry IV" parts one and two, following Hal from his drunken days in Eastcheap to his early days as King of England, a position he never wanted and takes reluctantly when his tyrannical father, Henry IV (Ben Mendelsohn), dies.

"I thought, 'Oh wow this could be really done in a way that's true to the plays and true to the history," Chalamet said. "People wielding these positions of power often were unusually young."

The "swords and horses" genre was a bit of a departure for Michôd too. He made his name with the Australian crime drama "Animal Kingdom" and has never been drawn to fantasy endeavors like "Game of Thrones" or "Lord of the Rings."

Dispensing Corp., a food magazine editor and writer.

star Lori Loughlin and other

South Park, games company swept up in China censorship fury

By KELVIN CHAN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV show South Park and a major video game studio are the latest businesses swept into a growing debate over how to navigate China's censorship efforts.

The question has heated up after the NBA suffered a backlash in China over a pro-Hong Kong tweet by the Houston Rockets general manager.

South Park's creators tackled the issue head on, making the latest episode of their satirical cartoon about how Hollywood self-censors to gain access to China's vast consumer market. The show was quickly scrubbed from the Chinese internet.

A check of the popular video streaming sites Youku and Bilibili turned up zero mentions of "South Park." A search on the search engine Baidu did pull up mentions of "South Park," but some results were removed.

Creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone issued a faux apology, saying, "Like the NBA, we welcome the Chinese censors into our homes and into our hearts. We too

love money more than freedom and democracy."

They were referring to a rapidly deleted tweet by the Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey supporting the Hong Kong protests. That angered Chinese authorities, with the state broadcaster canceling plans to show a pair of preseason games this week and reviewing all cooperation and exchanges with the league.

Meanwhile, video games maker Activision Blizzard said Tuesday it kicked a Hong Kong esports pro out of a tournament and seized his prize money after he voiced support for Hong Kong's pro-democ racy protest movement.

The company also said it suspended Ng-wai Chung, known as Blitzchung, from the Hearthstone Grandmaster card game for a year.

Chung's offense was to shout "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times" during a post-game interview on the weekend with two Taiwanese "casters," or hosts, who ducked under their desk, apparently not wanting to be associated with the slogan used by protesters in the semiautonomous Chinese city.

Under the game's rules, players can be removed for behavior that results in public disrepute, offends the public or damages its image, Blizzard said, adding that the two hosts were also fired.

Chinese authorities generally do not officially comment on the myriad acts of censorship carried out on the Internet and in other forms every day.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver was trying to find a middle way as the league faced a firestorm sparked by Morey's tweet.

On a visit to Tokyo, Silver said he and the league are "apologetic" that so many Chinese officials and fans were upset, but also said he isn't apologizing for Morey's tweet.

"Daryl Morey, as general manager of the Houston Rockets, enjoys that right as one of our employees," Silver said. "What I also tried to suggest is that I understand there are consequences from his freedom of speech and we will have to live with those consequences."

By DAVID KEYTON ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Life imitated art Tuesday when "The Big Bang Theory"—the American TV sitcom, not the scientific explanation for how the universe began-entered the annals of Nobel Prize history.

The announcement of the winners of this year's Nobel in physics began with a nod to an unlikely cultural reference: the opening lyrics to the show's theme song. "The Big Bang Theory" had its finale in May. In the episode, two of the main characters, Sheldon and Amy, win the physics prize.

"Our whole universe was in a hot, dense state, then nearly 14 billion years ago expansion started," academy member Ulf Danielsson said, quoting "The Big Bang" theme at the presentation in Stockholm.

A Canadian-American scientist and two Swiss scientists won the physics prize for their work in understanding how the universe has evolved from the Big Bang and the blockbuster discovery of a planet outside our solar system.

Goran Hansson, secretary

general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the TV show was a "fantastic achievement" that brought the "world of science to laptops and living rooms around the world." Referencing its theme song therefore seemed fitting, he said.

"The Big Bang Theory" debuted in 2007 and overcame early doubts to become a cult classic. The show featured a crew of nerdy misfits, all scientists on the West coast of the United States.

The plot of the finale episode has the group taking a final trip together to support the married Sheldon (Jim Parsons) and Amy (Mayim Bialik) after they win the Nobel Prize in physics. The couple waits anxiously by the phone getting prank calls from their friends before receiving the actual decision.

Hansson said he hoped fans of the show liked how this year's Nobel Prizes are handled.

"I hope that Sheldon and Amy are not too disappointed today," he said.

Big Bang Theory

gets shout out to Nobel Prize announcement



Marlon James, Laili Lalami are National Book Award nominees

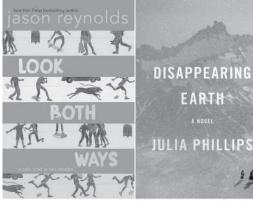
NEW YORK (AP)—Marlon James fantasy novel "Black Leopard, Red Wolf," Laila Lalami's immigrant tale "The Other Americans" and Jason Reynolds' neighborhood story "Look Both Ways" are among this year's finalists for the 70th annual National Book Awards.

Nominees announced Tuesday also include Albert Woodfox, the former prison inmate who spent more than 40 years in solitary confinement in the Louisiana State Penitentiary before his murder conviction was overturned and he was released, in 2016. His memoir "Solitary," written with Leslie George, is a finalist for nonfiction.

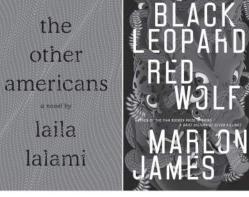
Five nominees were announced in each of five categories, ranging from fiction to translation to young people's literature. None of the finalists has ever won a competitive National Book Award and only four have received any kind of recognition, including poetry nominee Toi Derricotte, a recipient of an honorary National Book Award in 2016 for co-founding the poetry center Cave Canem.

This year's winners will be announced Nov. 20 at a benefit dinner in New York City, with LeVar Burton serving as host and honorary prizes going to author Edmund White and to Oren Teicher, CEO of the American Booksellers Association. The awards are presented by the National Book Foundation. Winners in the competitive categories each receive \$10,000.

James and Lalami were







This combination photo of book cover images shows, from left, "Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks," by Jason Reynolds, "Disappearing Earth," by Julia Phillips, "Sabrina & Corina," by Kali Fajardo-Anstine, "The Other Americans," by Laila Lalami, and "Black Leopard, Red Wolf' by Marlon James. The books are among this year's finalists for the 70th annual National Book Awards. The winners will be announced Nov. 20 at a benefit dinner presented by the National Book Foundation in New York.

chosen for fiction, along with Susan Choi's "Trust Exercise," Kali Fajardo-Anstine's "Sabrina & Corina" and Julia Phillips' "Disappearing Earth." In nonfiction, nominees besides Woodfox were Sarah M. Broom's "The Yellow House," Tressie McMillan Cottom's "Thick: And Other Essays," Carolyn Forché's "What You Have Heard is True: A Memoir of Witness and Resistance" and David Treuer's "The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present."

The translation nominees were Khaled Khalifa's "Death Is Hard Work" (translated from the Arabic by Leri Price), László Krasznahorkai's "Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming" (translated from the Hungarian by Ottilie Mulzet), Scholastique Mukasonga's Barefoot Woman" (translated from the French by Jordan Stump), Yoko Ogawa's

"The Memory Police" (translated from the Japanese by Stephen Snyder) and Pajtim Statovci's "Crossing" (translated from the Finnish by David Hackston).

In poetry, finalists besides Derricotte's "I: New and Selected Poems" were Jericho Brown's "The Tradition," Ilya Kaminsky's "Deaf Republic," Carmen Giménez Smith's "Be

monthly furlough

day for 415 profes-

sional employees

and stop retirement

Martin W. Sandler's "1919 The Year That Changed America." Ten of the 25 nominated books, including four out of five in fiction, were released by Penguin Random House, the country's largest publisher. Another 10 came from university and independent presses. The finalists were voted on by judging panels of authors, critics and others in the literary

community. Publishers sub-

mitted more than 1,700 books

for consideration.

Recorder' and Arthur Sze's "Sight Lines." Nominees be-

sides Reynolds in young peo-

ple's literature were Akwaeke

Emezi's "Pet," Randy Ribay's

"Patron Saints of Nothing," Lau-

ra Ruby's "Thirteen Doorways,

Wolves Behind Them All" and

Oprah to give \$13 million more for aid at black college

ATLANTA (AP)—Oprah Winfrey says she's giving \$13 million to increase a scholarship endowment at a dowment has paid to historically black college.

Winfrey announced her plan Monday at Morehouse College in Atlanta, adding to the \$12 million she gave to the all-male college in 1989. She was meeting with 47 students who benefit from the existing endowment.

"I was really surprised to learn that it's been 30 years since I made that \$12 million donation to Morehouse, so today, I'd like to add \$13 million to that," Winfrey said as cheers erupted, in a video released by Morehouse.

Morehouse President David Thomas said Winfrey's eneducate nearly 600 students over the past three decades.

The college described the gift as Winfrey a surprise. Last

month, Winfrey also sprung a surprise college donation on an audience, saying she'd give more than \$1 million to the United Negro College Fund at a North Carolina fundraiser.

Winfrey's announcement came weeks after 2,200-student Morehouse announced it would impose an unpaid



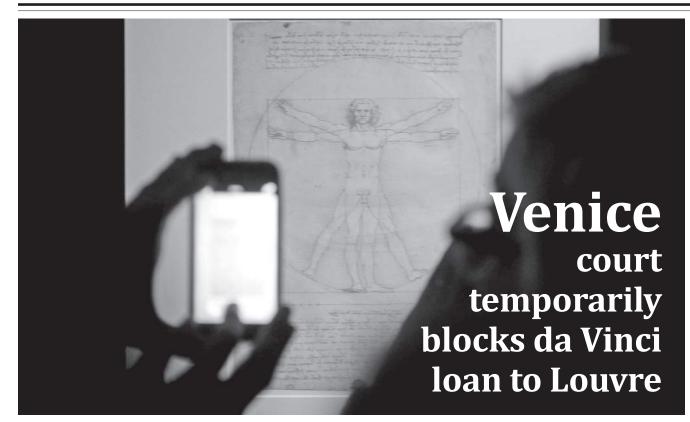
contributions of 3% of employee salaries. Some jobs will also be eliminated, with the overall cost-cutting effort meant to redirect \$3 million

to student aid.

Billionaire Robert Smith won wide attention earlier this year when he promised to repay all student and family loans accumulated by Morehouse's class of 2019. That one-time gift will be worth \$34 million, the college said last month.

Thomas said in a statement that he is "feeling hopeful for Morehouse and what it has garnered in terms of philanthropic support with gifts like Oprah's and Robert Smith's. I am hopeful that this will also get others to step up with their support of Morehouse, but even more broadly, historically black colleges and universities."

Many historically black colleges and universities struggle to raise money from private donors, and African American students often accumulate large amounts of debt because their families are not as wealthy as their white peers.



MILAN (AP)—An administrative court in Venice decided Tuesday to temporarily suspend the loan of Leonardo da Vinci's "Vitruvian Man" to the Louvre in Paris for an exhibition that is set to open later this month.

The move followed a request by the non-profit group Italia Nostra, which has been protesting the loan of the famed drawing by the Renaissance master from Venice's Accademia Gallery.

A final decision is set for Oct. 16, just days before the exhibition marking the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death is set to open at the Lou-

This Tuesday April 14, 2015 photo made available Tuesday Oct. 8, 2019 shows Leonardo da Vinci's "Vitruvian Man" during an exhibition in Milan, Italy.

vre on Oct. 24.

Italia Nostra, which campaigns for the protection of Italy's cultural treasures, argued that such a "precious and fragile" masterpiece should not leave Italy.

The Culture Ministry called the decision "incomprehensible."

Culture Minister Dario Franceschini signed a memorandum in September securing the loan in exchange for a work by Raphael for an exhibition marking the 500th anniversary of his death next year in Rome.

"The Vitruvian Man," Leonardo's famed study of human proportions, is normally kept out of public view in climate-controlled conditions, but was exhibited at the Accademia Gallery from April through July as part of events marking the anniversary of his death.

Judd Nelson: No misgivings about 'The Breakfast Club'

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—Actor Judd Nelson says he doesn't share the misgivings about "The Breakfast Club" that co-star Molly Ringwald expressed in a first-person column.

In April 2018, Ringwald wrote a column for The New Yorker about watching the movie a few years earlier with her then 10-year-old daughter. Her discomfort focuses on interactions that her character had with a "bad boy" portrayed by Nelson.

In an interview with The StarNews of Wilmington , Nelson says he thinks the 1985 movie is "a product of its time" and that he doesn't "see those problems that Molly sees."

The 59-year-old Nelson is in Wilmington to star in the play "Love Letters," which will be performed Saturday at Kenan Auditorium. His costar in the two-person drama is Sheryl Lee, who played Laura Palmer in "Twin Peaks."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Clint Eastwood's 'Richard Jewell' gets AFI Fest premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clint Eastwood's film "Richard Jewell" is having its world premiere at the AFI Fest in Los Angeles in November. The American Film Institute announced Tuesday that the film had been added to a lineup for its annual film festival. Eastwood directed the film, written by Billy Ray, about the true story of the security guard who went from hero to suspect after the 1996 Atlanta Olympic bombing that killed one woman. Paul Walter Hauser plays the title character. Sam Rockwell, Kathy Bates and Jon Hamm co-star. "Richard Jewell," a Warner Bros. release, will open in theaters on Dec. 13. The 2019 AFI Fest will open with the premiere of "Queen & Slim" on Nov. 14 and close with "The Banker" on Nov. 21.

Impostor shows up at comedian Lampanelli's home FAIRFIELD, Conn. (AP)—Lisa Lampanelli can be forgiven if she

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (AP)—Lisa Lampanelli can be forgiven if she didn't laugh when she found out an impostor showed up at her home. Police in Fairfield, Connecticut, say they

responded to the comedian's home last week after her sister said she got a phone call from a woman claiming to be Lampanelli. The woman said she was at her house but was locked out and couldn't remember where the spare key was. Police say the real Lisa Lampanelli was out of state at the time. Officers found 56-year-old Anna Dominguez, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in a car in the driveway. Police say Dominguez had the same hairstyle as the comedian and was wearing similar clothing. Dominguez was charged with attempted burglary. A court clerk said Tuesday she had not posted a \$500 bond and does not yet have an attorney. She is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 7.

Alec Baldwin falls for Statue of Liberty tour 'scam'

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin says he fell for a "scam" Statue of Liberty tour. The actor shared his experience on Instagram Sunday. He says he bought \$40 tickets for a boat tour of the Statue of Liberty for his family. But they were instead escorted to a shuttle bus to New Jersey. The Daily News reports the shuttle bus transports passengers from down-

town New York to New Jersey, where they get on a boat that offers views of the Statue of Liberty. A message was left with the tour operator that apparently sold Baldwin the tickets. Baldwin says his family ultimately ended up taking the Staten island Ferry, which is free and passes the Statue of Liberty. Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced expanded enforcement Tuesday against companies that mislead tourists and operate buses without permits.

Eagles plan massive 'Hotel California' performances on tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eagles are planning massive performances of their album "Hotel California" during their 2020 tour. Performances of the band's 1976 album will include a 46-piece orchestra and a 22-voice choir. Organizers announced Tuesday that in total, 77 musicians are expected to be onstage while Eagles perform hits from the album including "New Kid in Town" and "Life in the Fast Lane." The band's 2020 tour will kick off Feb. 7 in Atlanta and end April 18 in Los Angeles. Stops will include New York, Dal-

las, Houston and San Francisco. The band recently performed the album in its entirety at shows in Las Vegas, the first time in its history that it had played the whole album in concert. Tickets go on sale Friday on Ticketmaster

Josh Groban plans to 'let go' in upcoming show series

NEW YORK (AP)—Josh Groban has a date for Valentine's Day-with 6,000 or so of his fans. The singersongwriter said Tuesday he has booked New York's City's massive Radio City Music Hall for a Feb. 14 show that he promises will be a night of music with special guests and plenty of spontaneous, off-the-cuff segments. "I am most fulfilled when I am most scared so I'm excited to have the opportunity to terrify myself," Groban told The Associated Press on the eve of the announcement. "As my tours have gone on, I have found that really where the good stuff lies is when you let go." In addition to Valentine's Day, Groban has also booked Radio City for April 18 and hopes he will return to the venue for a new show every few months. Tickets for the first two shows go on sale Friday.

Woman's online attitude darkens following her brother's suicide

EAR ABBY: I have a friend on social media whose brother died by suicide several months ago. She was the one who found him. They were close, and I think he was her last immediate family member. She has posted openly about how horrible this experience has been and how sad she feels.

More recently, however, her posts have become increasingly bleak. She shares that she's having trouble sleeping and she is so sad and feels completely alone because she has no more family. She gets supportive comments from her Facebook "friends," but continues to sound hopeless. She has started posting that she's going to get off FB because all she can talk about is her brother and she knows everyone is sick of hearing about it. She writes that she does not think she will be here much longer.

I know that someone who hints at suicide should not be dismissed, especially given her experience with her brother's suicide. We went to school decades ago but were not close friends. I don't know her personally very well, and we live several hours apart. How can I help her if she really is thinking about suicide? It seems critical to me, but I don't know what I should do or how fast to act.

CARING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR CARING: Contact your friend through messaging on Facebook, tell her you are concerned about her, and ask to talk with her. You are right to be concerned. Urge her to join a grief support group or talk with a mental health professional about her loss and feelings of depression and isolation. Give her the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255. If she calls the hotline, she may be able to get a referral there. You are being a good friend. Let's hope she takes our advice.

DEAR ABBY: I am a successful career woman in my 50s. My husband is in his 40s. We decided several years ago that he could stop working, as my income is enough for both of us. He runs our household and is invaluable to me, not only as manager of our household, but also because he looks after the affairs of both our aging parents. Our kids are grown, so there's no need for child care.

When we go to social functions, invariably he gets asked, "So, what do you do?" When we say he's retired, people look at him suspiciously. I suspect they think he's taking advantage of me, when that couldn't be further from the truth. There is no way I could be as successful in my career without his support. What would be a good response? I think it hurts his feelings,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



but he keeps it quiet.

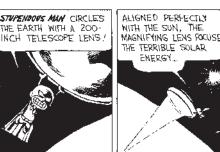
GOOD THING GOING OUT WEST

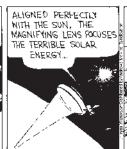
DEAR GOOD THING: Congratulations on having a partnership that is working so well. People often ask this question as a way of starting a conversation with someone they don't know. Your husband might answer it by saying, "I'm retired now, but I used to work in ——. What do YOU do?"

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes





WHEN KATY GETS IN

By Eugene Sheffer

Serena

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27 Jacob's

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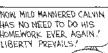
Hangover"

thoroughly

mas tree,







By Bill Waterson



Garfield_®







By Jim Davis

Adam@home

OH, MAN. THIS IS GONNA BE GREAT.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

5 Arced

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8 Tools

12 Sugar

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15 Historic

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By Bryan Basset



WENT TO A

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LAST NIGHT.



BED I'LL JUMP UP AND SCARE THE STUFFING OUT OF HER. \circ O

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37 Drive

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45 The



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Iodi Lyn O'Keefe, 41; Mario Lopez, 46; Wendi McLendon-Covey, 50; Nora Roberts, 69.

Happy Birthday: Look for the positive in everyone and everything. Attitude will make a difference in the way you prepare and the help you receive. Having a plan in place and a goal you want to aspire to will help deter people from meddling in your affairs. Stop procrastinating and giving in to people who are trying to control your life. Your numbers are 4, 9, 20, 28, 34, 39, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Simplify your life. Consider what makes you happy and the people who bring you joy. Evaluate what you want to do and where you want to live. A change will unfold if you strategize a plan and put it in motion. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Participate in events that will help you reunite with people from your past, including ex-colleagues, former students or distant relatives. What you find out will spark an idea that will lead to positive change. Love and romance are on the rise. OOOO

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put more energy into what you are trying to achieve. Taking action will keep you busy and help you avoid getting into an emotional situation based on false information and accusations. Stick to the truth, and live moderately. •• CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't

overlook the obvious when trying to figure out what others are doing or what's expected of you. Being open about the way you feel is likely to cause a ruckus with someone who doesn't share your opinions. Romance is encouraged. OOOOO

do a lot. You'll be remembered for what vou accomplish, not what you talk about doing. Look carefully at any change you want to make. It's important to have a plan in place as well as a set budget. OOO

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should know the drill by now: If you want something, it's up to you to make it happen.

Stay focused, be direct and don't fold under pressure. Walk away from emotional and impractical situations and people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Size up your current situation at home, and decipher whether you can make suitable changes or if you have to start from scratch. Preparing for what you want to achieve down the road is encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use your imagination, and make changes that will improve the way you do things, how you

live or how you look. You may not please everyone, but as long as you feel good about the results you get, that's what matters. 👀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think big, but live within your means. Size up what needs to be done, and approach people who have the wherewithal to help you achieve your goals. A delay or unfamiliar sur-

rounding will cause uncertainty. When in doubt,

Sudoku is a number-placing

puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with

several given numbers. The

object is to place the numbers

pause. 🛇 🔾 🔾

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Say little, and THE LAST WORD

IN ASTROLOGY COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

EUGENIA



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

fix what has been holding you back for some time. The limitations you have faced in the past are giving way to easier and less stressful situations. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An opening or chance to try something new

Take a different approach to an old

problem, and you will find a way to

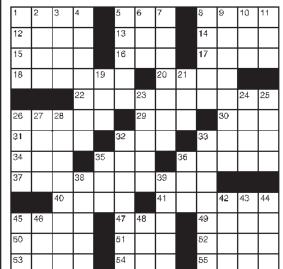
and exciting will entice you. Before you take on a new project or task, look at what's involved and how much time and money it will take. Don't sacrifice too much.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are overdue for a change. Consider what you would like to happen and how you can make your dream come true. A partnership will make a difference in the way you live or how you handle money. Romance is encouraged. 🛇 😂

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, willful and perceptive. You are intelligent and sentimental.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

29 Drenched Solution time: 24 mins. 30 A Gabor 31 Spelling-33 Mideast paigned **35** "The Yesterday's answer 10-10



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Conceptis Sudoku 1 to 9 in the empty squares so By Dave Green that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the 5 8 same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis 3 6 8 Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday. 2 4 1 Yesterday's Answer 2 9 3 4 5 2 1 6 8 5 4 5 2 6 8 9 1 7 3 4 1 8 4 6 7 3 5 9 2 8 9 4 3 9 1 8 7 2 5 6 6 1 5 9 2 4 3 8 7 6 2 7 5 8 7 2 5 3 6 9 4 1 9 6 8 7 1 5 4 2 3 3 2 5 1 3 4 8 6 7 9 3 4 7 2 6 9 8 1 5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDELWORD.

BEAUTY IS WITHIN Solution: 5 letters														tters
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Appeal, Attract. Boutique, Captivate, Care. Charisma, Charm, Elegant, Enchant, Energy, Essence, Fashion, Genuine. Glitter, Glow, Gorgeous, Grace. Grand, Hair. Harmony. Heart, Intellect. Kind. Laugh, Love, Nails, Natural, Nice, Pageant, Polish, Polite, Pretty, Pure, Radiant, Ravish, Respect, Skin, Smile, Splendid, Style, Sunset, Sweet, Tips, Unique, Vision, Wedding Yesterday's Answer: Digital

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 23

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2019

Opening date: September 30, 2019 Closing date: October 18, 2019

- (1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
- (1) Secretary/Tariff Technician-I (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 18, 2019.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S TENORIO Executive Director



(1) Electrician (Saipan)

- (1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)

Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA

Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Rays force do-or-die Game 5 against Astros



ST. PETERS-BURG, Fla. (AP) — The

Tampa Bay Rays never doubted themselves, even with Justin Verlander looking to end their season.

Willy Adames homered and made a sensational relay throw from shortstop, and the Rays chased Verlander early in beating the Houston Astros 4-1 Tuesday night to even their AL Division Series at two games apiece.

Tommy Pham also went deep and Ryan Yarbrough combined with five other pitchers on a six-hitter for Tampa Bay. Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell came out of the bullpen for his first career relief appearance, holding off Houston in the ninth inning to earn the save.

Verlander, starting on short rest after dominating the wild-card Rays in Game 1, looked uncomfortable on the mound at Tropicana Field and was pulled in the fourth after giving up four runs.

The series shifts back to Houston for a deciding Game 5 on Thursday night. Astros star Gerrit Cole is scheduled to pitch for the heavily favored AL West champs, who led the majors with 107 wins this season and have one more chance to close out the feisty Rays.

"We've got some momentum going for us and we plan on taking it back to Houston," Tampa Bay center fielder Kevin Kiermaier said.

The winner plays the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series.

Verlander, whose eight career ALDS victories are a major league record, yielded three runs in the first. Adames homered leading off the fourth to make it 4-0, and the Houston ace didn't make it through the inning.

"A good approach for those guys in the first, and then honestly, I need those infield singles to be caught. When you don't have it, you need the balls that are put in play to go your way, and they didn't," said Verlander, who only started on short rest three other times during his career, including the 2011 ALDS, when he started Games 1 and 3 after Game 1 was suspended in the second inning.

"Obviously, not the way you would script it," he added. "You know, it sucks."

The Rays helped themselves by playing stellar defense, especially with the Astros threatening to cut into their three-run deficit in the fourth.

With speedy Jose Altuve on first base, Yordan Alvarez hit a long double that shorthopped the center field wall.



Two-time Gold Glove winner Kiermaier quickly grabbed the ball and fired to his cutoff man, Adames. He turned and executed a perfect relay home just in time to nail Altuve trying to score.

"That was probably the most incredible relay throw from an infielder I've ever seen," Kiermaier said. "That was such a huge moment for us, huge momentum shift, and it just doesn't get any better than."

Rays opener Diego Castillo struck out the first three batters and went 1 2/3 innings. He was followed by Yarbrough, who worked two scoreless innings to get the win. Nick Anderson handed off to Colin Poche, who gave up an eighth-inning homer to Robinson Chirinos.

Emilio Pagan and Snell

finished up for the Rays, who have rebounded from losing the first two games of the series on the road to Verlander and Houston's other main headliner, Cole.

"A lot of credit to them for their preparation and putting themselves in this position," Cole said. "I certainly think they've earned it. ... They've played calm, cool and collected." Altuve drew a one-out walk and Alex Bregman singled to enable the Astros to bring the potential tying run to the plate in the ninth.

Snell, the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner who started Game 2, entered and struck out Alvarez before retiring Yuli Gurriel on a sharp grounder up the middle— exactly where the Tampa Bay Rays' Emilio Pagan pitches to a Houston Astros batter duriing the eighth inning of Game 4 of the American League Division Series, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Rays were playing him—to end the game.

Charlie Morton, who helped Houston win the World Series two years ago, began the Rays' comeback by beating his former team 10-3 on Monday.

Needing one victory to advance to the AL Championship Series for the third straight year, the Astros opted to start Verlander on just three days of rest in hopes of closing out the Rays, who have won three elimination games in a week to stay in the running for their first trip to the ALCS since 2008.

Manager AJ Hinch said it was an easy decision to go with Verlander, who was 8-0 in 12 ALDS appearances, including 11 starts, before Tuesday night.

Verlander limited the Rays to one hit over seven scoreless innings in Game 1, and it looked as though Tampa Bay might be in for another long night when he fanned Austin Meadows to begin the bottom of the first.

What transpired over the next six batters—beginning with Pham's 408-foot shot to left-center that got a yellow flag-waving, boisterous crowd of 32,178 into it—could fuel some second-guessing of Hinch if Houston doesn't win Game 5 at home.

Four of the next five Rays also reached base, building the lead to 3-0. Travis d'Arnaud hit a sharp grounder through the hole between third base and shortstop for an RBI single, and Joey Wendle lined a double into the right-field corner to drive in another run.

Seating capacity at Tropicana Field was reduced to 25,025 this year, but the Rays removed the tarps covering a portion of the upper deck to allow more fans an opportunity to buy tickets for Games 3 and 4. After drawing 32,251—more than twice the club's ALworst season average of 14,734 per game—on Monday, attendance was announced as 32,178 on Tuesday night.

Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash said the team, which routinely ranks near or at the bottom of the majors in attendance, appreciated the support.

"Certainly, players like to play in front of a lot of fans. Everybody recognizes that," Cash said. "But when it mattered, when it counted ... they showed up

Yankees close in on first World Series since 2009

MINNEAPOLIS—Aaron Boone is lying completely sprawled out in the hallway outside the New York Yankees clubhouse late Monday evening at Target Field.

Inside the clubhouse, the Yankees celebrated their American League Division Series sweep over the Minnesota Twins, spraying champagne and beer, but it was as if someone called the cops and shut the party down for violating a noise ordinance.

The party lasted for no more than 30 minutes until the ripping sound of plastic protecting the lockers came off the wall, and just like that, they looked barely more excited than if they just swept the Baltimore Orioles in July.

The Yankees entered this series four days ago with the task of shutting down baseball's greatest power-hitting team, conquered, and swiftly dismantled the Twins by a combined score of 23-7 as if

they just stole a car, stripped it down, and sold it for parts.

Now, after winning their 106th game of the season, comes the real challenge: Winning the next round and advancing to their first World Series in a decade.

For the Yankees, the drought feels like it has lasted forever.

Now, they're poised to

Now, they're poised to make their own history.

They don't have anything resembling the 1-2 punch of Justin Verlander and Gerrit Cole of the Houston Astros. Yet, they've got one of their most complete teams since the turn of this century, able to beat you with power ball, small ball, defense, pitching and a clubhouse culture that has the biggest heart in the land.

"It's like nothing I've ever seen," Yankees All-Star infielder DJ LeMahieu says quietly in the corner of the clubhouse, surveying the scene alone. "Early on, I felt it one of going to be one of those years. No matter who it is, they're going to get the job done, and that's a special feeling.

"Obviously, there's a lot of deep talented players here, but it's so selfless. Everyone checks their ego at the door. And roots for everyone.

"We not only have the talent, but that chemistry, and that can sure can take you a long way in this game."

Yankees slugger Aaron Judge says he has never seen anything like it, and when he spoke to the team after the game, hoisting his beer, he made sure to give the game hero's championship wrestling belt to 22-year-old Gleyber Torres, the youngest star of them all.

"I never been in an organization like this before where you're surrounded by so many All-Stars, superstars, MVPs and Cy Young winners," Judge says, "and they check their ego at the door.

When we come in here, we all fight for one thing, and that's to win the ballgame today.

"When you've got an environment like that, there's no better place to play and thrive."

The Yankees have reached the postseason 18 times, winning six pennants and four World Series championships since Brian Cashman became the GM in 1998, and yet, this group may be the most unique of them all.

They had a record 30 players on the disabled list this season. Their regular lineup didn't play their first game together the entire season until Game 1 of the ALDS. Giancarlo Stanton, their \$325 million player, played 18 games all season. Their ace, Luis Severino, pitched only 12 innings until Monday night's clinching game. Their prime setup man, Dellin Betances, pitched twothirds of an inning before his season ended.

Popovich lauds Silver's response to China over tweet rift



day for his stance supporting freedom of speech amid the ongoing rift with China.

Popovich, speaking before his San Antonio Spurs faced the Miami Heat in a preseason game, said he recognized that Silver is in a difficult situation following the Chinese dismay over a tweet posted last week by Houston general manager Daryl Morey that showed support for anti-government protesters in Hong Kong.

But he is thrilled with how Silver—who issued a statement earlier in the day from Tokyo and then held a news conference there to further affirm how the NBA believes in freedom of speech as a core value — is holding firm to Morey's right to expression.

"And it wasn't easy for him to say," Popovich said. "He said that in an environment fraught with possible economic peril. But he sided with the principles that we all hold dearly, or most of us did until the last three years. So I'm thrilled with what he said."

Popovich is one of the NBA's most outspoken coaches, never shy to offer opinion on political matters—he is a staunch opponent of President Donald Trump—or social causes. Many NBA coaches have remained largely mum on the current situation with China. Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni refused to answer questions on the topic after his team's game in Tokyo on Tuesday, Golden State coach Steve Kerr said he wanted to educate himself on the situation before speaking out, and Los Angeles Clippers coach



A man walks past statues of NBA players Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors, left, and Lebron James of the Los Angeles Lakers holding Chinese flags in the entrance of an NBA merchandise store in Beijing, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV announced Tuesday it will no longer air two NBA preseason games set to be played in the country.

Doc Rivers didn't go too deeply into specifics when asked his opinion.

"That's what this country is about: freedom of speech," Rivers told reporters at Clippers practice Tuesday. "And we should always have freedom of speech. But ... freedom of speech does not mean freedom of consequences."

Other coaches have said they are simply too busy getting ready for the season to fully dive into the topic.

"Training camp's a pretty immersive time for us to get into game film and training, etc.," Toronto coach Nick Nurse said. "I have a lot of faith in the leadership of the NBA that they know what they're doing to take care of these matters.

But Popovich spoke at length about Silver's remarks. He compared their significance to two other moments that he finds significant from Silver's career—how the NBA banned former Clippers owner Donald Sterling over racist comments, and how the league has been a leader in supporting the LG-BTQ community.

"Adam is a very progressive leader," Popovich said. "We all remember how he handled the situation with the former owner of the Clippers, which made everybody proud because it was the right thing to do. A

couple years ago—I can't remember, time goes by quickly, two, three, four years ago-I was walking the streets of New York City during the Gay Pride parade and I turned around and here comes a float and Adam's standing on the float with a big sign in support of LGBTQ and I felt great again, just like I did with the Clipper deal.

"And then we come out strongly for freedom of speech. I felt great again."

Preseason games cancelation?

The back-and-forth between the NBA and China over Morey's tweet has created an endless debate with no end in sight. Now there are reports that there could be immediate consequences.

According to Marc Stein of the New York Times, there is a possibility that China could cancel hosting two NBA preseason games in light of their leadership's anger over Morey's tweet and Silver's perceived support of the Rockets GM.

In discussions over the past few days with a number of well-placed observers, who are familiar with both the Chinese landscape and N.B.A. dealings, there are growing fears that government officials will cancel the two games. Various sponsors, media outlets and the Chinese Basketball Association itself—led by the former Rockets great Yao Minghave already vowed to have nothing to do with the Rockets for the foreseeable future.

Silver is scheduled to arrive in China on Wednesday to begin face-to-face damage control with some of the aggrieved entities. Among them is Yao himself; Silver has acknowledged that the Hall of Fame center is "extremely" angry.

"And I understand it," Sil-

This situation is going to get worse before it gets any better. Meanwhile, everyone's trying to parse out what to make of it, with nothing clearer at the end of any discussion.

Phil Mickelson has never played this much golf this late in the year since

gan a new season in October instead of January.

He's never had this much of

Mickelson is running out of time to show why U.S. captain Tiger Woods should pick him for the Presidents Cup. At stake is a streak that is unlikely to be matched. Mickelson has played on 24 consecutive Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup teams, qualifying for 20 of them. The last time he wasn't on a team was 1993, the year Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth were born.

Through two tournaments, there are few signs of progress except for his weight loss.

As always with Mickelson, there is no shortage of optimism. How else to explain how a

the PGA Tour be-

player can be so good for so long? How he could win his first PGA Tour event when he was in college and his most recent when he was a year away from being eligible for the PGA Tour Champions?

How he could go nearly 26 consecutive years among the Top 50 in the world?

"The challenge of playing golf at the highest level brings out the best in me," Mickelson said in Las Vegas after he tied for 61st in a tournament he had not played since 2005. "It forces me to get in the best shape, forces me to work hard and to focus on something positive, improving my game. It gives me a direction, and it's been a big part of my life and I love it.

"It's a fun challenge for me right now to play my best golf."

It doesn't look like much fun, not based on the results.

Since winning at Pebble Beach in February, Mickelson has gone 18 consecutive tournaments out of the Top 10, the longest drought of his career. The second-longest drought out of the top 10 was 16 events, all but three of those when he was finishing his senior year at Arizona State.

He began his 29th season on the PGA Tour by hitting consecutive shots out-ofbounds on the par-5 fifth hole at Silverado and making a quadruple-bogey 9, which led to a 75 and a missed cut in the Safeway Open. The next week in Las Vegas, just four shots out of the lead going into the weekend, Mickelson shot 74 in the third round on a TPC Summerlin course that yielded six scores of 63 or lower.

Mickelson finished too low to earn world ranking points

Mickelson racing the clock and spinning his wheels in Las Vegas and dropped to No. 46.

> Next up for him is the CJ Cup at Nine Bridges in South Korea next week, and he has hinted strongly about playing the HSBC Champions in Shanghai, where he has won twice. That's the final event before Woods makes his four captain's picks.

> If Mickelson doesn't perform well in either of those, he will be out of the top 50 by the end of the year. The last time he was in danger of that was the start of 2018. He was at No. 49 and then tied for fifth in the Phoenix Open. A month later, he won the Mexico Championship.

> That's what makes Mickelson so compelling, along with his sheer talent, imagination and willingness to take on any shot. Even at age 49, having

gone seven months without so much as contending, there is no telling what Lefty will do next-or when.

It's not just about playing in another Presidents Cup. That streak will end at some point, and it might take a win for Woods to justify picking him over the seven players ahead of Mickelson in the standings, a list that includes U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland, Rickie Fowler and Woods, who has not ruled out being a playing captain at Australia's Royal Melbourne in December.

Mickelson won't accept anything less than what he believes he can do.

"There's no reason why I shouldn't be able to play at my best," he said at the Safeway Open. "I'm physically able to do it, my game feels sharp, the touch is there, the elements are

there and yet I haven't been pulling it out. But I'm determined to turn that around."

Mickelson first mentioned when he won in Mexico City last year that he wants to reach 50 wins on the PGA Tour. "Oh, I will. I'll get there," he said that day after No. 43. When he reached No. 44 at Pebble, he was a little more practical about it-not because he's getting older, but because winning is getting harder.

Lefty has never played more than twice in the fall since the PGA Tour went to the wraparound season in 2013. Now he's playing at least three tournaments, probably four, with hopes of making it five at the Presidents Cup.

Beyond that?

In June, the U.S. Open returns to Winged Foot, where he made double bogey on the 18th hole to lose the U.S. Open, the only major he hasn't won.

SIS dominates final cross-country qualifier

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Saipan International School triumphed the U18 girls division

the final qualifying race for the 2019 All Schools Cross-Country Championships last Saturday at the Saipan Country Club.

Tiana Cabrera, Dain Lee, and Linxi Cai gave the Geckos the Top 3 finish in the 3-kilometer plus course after timing in at 16:33, 18:06, and 20:00, respectively.

In the boys U18 bracket, SIS continued to excel with Samuel Culp finishing the race first at 14:29. Saipan Southern High School's Joshua Mendez came in at a close second at 15:08, while Charles McDonald, also from SIS, was ranked third after timing in at 15:59.

In the U14 age group, SIS ruled both the girls and boys divisions.

Doyeon Lee completed the 2K plus course at 10:41 to give the Geckos the win in the boys U14, while his teammate, Ri-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elementary school students head out to the course during the last qualifier for the 2019 All Schools Cross-Country Championships last Saturday at the Saipan Coun-

gel Devey, was at close second after posting 10:42. Mount Carmel School's John Linden took third place after completing the course in 11:35.

In the girls U14, SIS Rebecca Eaton took the top spot by completing the course in 15:08. Dandan Middle School's Zoe Macaranas registered 17:25 to finish second, while her teammate, Ava Benavente, placed third (17:33). In the boys U12 division,

Tanapag Middle School's Wataru Kadokura submitted 5:05 in the 1K-plus race to beat Saipan Community School's David Ye (5:12) and SIS' Sean Park (5:13). In the girls division, Brilliant Star

School's Fiona Regan came out on top, finishing the race at 5:22, and was followed by SCS' Abbie Kim (5:44) and William S. Reyes' Erica Narruhn (6:33).

In the U9 girl division, BSS' Sari Barman triumphed, as she checked in at 5:28, finishing ahead of SCS' Allie Brassuell (5:49) and SIS' Suki Peng (5:55). In the boys race, SCS had a 1-2 finish with Jose Sablan finishing first at 5:32 and Patrick McDonald coming in second at 5:42. SIS' Finn Altizer completed the Top 3 with

his 5:43

In the U7 age group, MCS won both the boys and girls races. Kainoa Tenorio timed in at 5:05 to beat SIS' Jude Rayphand (5:40), while Franko Tudela, also from MCS, was ranked third after recording 6:43. In the girls division, Celine Christy clocked in at 5:23 to prevail against BSS runners Aya Smith (5:53) and Shana Barman (6:05).

Meanwhile, all the qualifiers will compete in the finale race set for Oct. 18 at 4pm at the Saipan Country Club.

TanHoldings 1 coasts past Joeten

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



TanHoldings routed Joeten 2, 83-63, in the 2018 JP World Corp.

Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

TanHoldings 1 cruised to victory after building an early double-digit lead, 27-10. Elmer Esdrelon and Fradel Sedillo joined forces in the team's strong start, scoring 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Joeten 2 fell behind after the first period, as it only made five field goals in the opening 10 minutes of play. Only J.P. Cruz hit more than one basket for Joeten 2, as he delivered 6 of their total points in the first frame.

After a so-so performance early in the game, Joeten 2 picked up its scoring in the next three periods, but Tan-Holdings 1 countered and even outgunned the former in the third, 23-18, to keep the safe lead.

Sedillo added 6 points in the penultimate quarter, while Dindo Pablo also contributed 6, as TanHoldings 1 stretched its advantage to 21, 65-44, going into the final period.

Joeten 2 did not make enough headway in fourth canto, allowing TanHoldings 1 to take a 20-point winning margin.

Sedillo showed the way for TanHoldings 1 with his 26 points, while Esdrelon added 22. Pablo and Rey Dimafelix also finished in twin digits with 12 apiece, while Adonis Macoto chipped in 11.

Cruz paced Joeten 2 with his 18 markers.

TanHoldings 1 83—Sedillo 26, Esdrelon 22, Pablo 12, Dimafelix 12, Macoto 11.

Joeten 2 63—Cruz 18, Agulto 12, Oracion 8, Montoya 7, William 6, Garcia 4, Quitugua 4, Mafnas 2, Dorondon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-10, 42-26, 65-44, 83-63.

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31 rebounds. Mintac played in five matches, two and leads the league in points with his 135. The Game forward also has logged 17 steals, 24 rebounds, and seven assists.

Meanwhile, joining Jandoc, Mintac, and Santos in the Top 5 in the statistical points leaderboard are the latter's teammate Douglas Schmidt and Caravan's Josh Andrew. Schmidt, after six games, re-

corded 34 SP, as he accumulated 71 points, 42 assists, 45 rebounds, and 43 steals. Andrew also saw action in six games for Caravan's and collected 86 points, 12 assists, 64 rebounds, and 21 steals.

Rounding out the Top 10 of the SP leaders are The Game's Jun Fidelino (33.1 SP); Bridge Capital, LLC's Matt Duenas (30.2), Caravan's Alex Standish (29.8), IT&E's Jaymark De Gyzman (29.4), and MS Villagomez's Matt Richardson (29.3).

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set, We Are Groot eked out a 15-13 triumph for a 2-0 record last week.

Black Panthers matched We Are Groot's pair of wins last week. They first defeated the D'Challengers, 25-10, 25-10 and then had another straight set victory over As Guardians, 25-18, 25-23.

In other results, the As Guardians also notched two wins last week after besting the Old Aces and D'Challengers.

The As Guardians nipped the Old Aces in three sets. A 24-14 victory in the first set moved the As Guardians closer to the win, but the Old Aces bounced back in the second with a 25-19 triumph. The As Guardians then regained its bearings and prevailed in the deciding third



The Old Aces' Jack "Ketson" Kabiriel bends for a return to the As Guardians during their game in the Avengers Volleyball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium

set, 15-10 victory.

While the As Guardians played an extended game against the Old Aces, the former needed only two to dispatch the D'Challengers, 25-18, 25-23.

After losing to the As Guardians, the Old Aces recovered following a 25-20, 25-21 triumph over The Revengers.

In the Iron Spike-Straight Outta Nowhere duel, the game went to three sets. Iron Spike won the opening set, 25-19, while Straight Outta Nowhere battled back in the second, 25-19. Iron Spike eventually took the victory after prevailing in the third set, 15-10.

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hit the board in the 52nd and 31st minute, respectively.

Meanwhile, Shirley's notched its first win of the season after downing MP United, 6-4.

Katrina Costales powered Shirley's to victory after scoring five goals, while Wallis Bai made the other goal for the winning squad. Maury Zon Tybaco registered two goals for MP United, while Fiona Bucalig and Audrey Castro added one each.

In the boys U18 division, TanHoldings took the solo lead after a 5-0 triumph over

Matansa last Friday.

Mark Esalan had a hat trick in the easy win, while Joshua Waldo and Aloyzeus Angeles contributed one goal apiece for TanHoldings, which now owns a 3-1-0 mark to place ahead of Kanoa (2-1-1), MP United (2-0-2), and Matansa (0-0-4).

Kanoa bagged its second win of the season after downing MP United, 3-1, in the other game in the division.

Andruw Omelau posted two goals for Kanoa, while Jacob Montes scored the other one. Oliver Lee registered the lone goal for MP United, which absorbed its second straight loss after a 2-0 start.

Pro coach trains Tsunami Saipan swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribu REPORTER

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members trained under Japanese professional coach Hana Okimoto for two weeks at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan pool.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said Okimoto provided technical lessons to their swimmers and held sessions for various classes (recreational, beginner and senior) of the club every night at the 25-yard pool. The visiting coach is from Sukumo, Kochi Prefecture and was impressed with the skills of Tsunami Saipan swimmers and how they eagerly responded to the workouts and drills she conducted. Kimura added that Okimoto hopes to come back to Saipan or even stay here for a while to continue training the club's members.

Meanwhile, Kimura is pleased with Tsunami Saipan's progress since they started training at the PIC pool despite the challenges they are facing with their new practice venue.

"We deeply appreciate PIC because they keep providing a training facility to us. Without PIC's understanding and support, it will be very hard for our swimmers to practice and improve," said Kimura, whose swimmers had to look for an alternative training venue after



Japanese professional coach Hana Okimoto checks on Tsunami Saipan's senior swimmers after conducting a drill.

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the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool closed in October last year.

At PIC's short-course pool, Tsunami Saipan conducts time trials either once or twice a month and majority of the club's swimmers achieved impressive records based on the U.S. motivational time standards that the group follows.

"Our swimmers have marked AA, AAA, or AAAA times. Several swimmers who just moved up a new age group could get more than AA time. Before, at the time we were using the Marpi pool, our swimmers best was BB or A time, the highest when they moved up to a new age group," Kimura said.

The Tsunami Saipan coach added that their swimmers could post faster times if they do diving practice, so he will look for some venues where their members could do so.

"The PIC pools is not deep enough so we can't dive there. We will try to find a place for our diving practice, maybe a pool designed for scuba diving training," Kimura said.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers are training for some tournaments next year. They are originally set to compete in Guam this month, but the Hagatna Pool is closed and undergoing repairs so the meet was canceled.

Twin wins for All Blue; Kanoa bounces back

drills to Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan swimmers.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com



All Blue swept first two games in Division A of the

2019 Spring Men's M-League, while Kanoa Football Club recovered from its season debut loss last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

All Blue, which is bannered by members of the CNMI Men's U19 National Team, won its first game of the season last Thursday after outclassing Paire Football Club, 4-2. John Michael Rojas knocked in a pair of goals for All Blue, while Sebastien Manabat added one.

Roias scored right second minute of the first half and All Blue hung on to the slim lead at the break.

Paire then equalized in the 53rd minute off Jireh Yobech's goal before All Blue got the lead back, thanks to Manabat's shot in the 59th minute. The match was tied anew in the 68th minute after Alan Gudino's conversion, while Rojas quickly broke the deadlock with his second goal in the 69th. An own goal charged against Paire in the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Kanoa Football Club player kicks the ball during their season debut game against Shirley's Football Club in the Division B of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Kanoa lost to Shirley's, but recovered quickly after beating Matansa last Sunday.

74th minute gave All Blue Paire, All Blue returned to cushion and the latter shut down the former the rest of the way for a winning debut.

the pitch and this time eased past TanHoldings last Sunday, 3-0. Three days after beating

All Blue also got an own

goal in their game against TanHoldings, while Joshua De Leon delivered a pair for the early leader in Division A.

Paire also played last Sunday and dominated Korean Football Association on Saipan, 9-2. Ajani Burrell and Samuel Smith scored two goals apiece for Paire, while Brad Ruszala, Trey Dunn, Yoji Singh, Qiwai Wang, and Danny Agulto contributed one apiece.

Junsik Kim and Hwapyoung Kim posted the two goals for KFAS.

Meanwhile, Kanoa also battled back from its season debut defeat after edging Matansa, 3-2, in the Division B match last weekend.

It was a come-from-behind win for Kanoa, as it faced a 0-2 deficit at halftime. Gabriel Arkoh, Jr., and Amzad Khan scored in the fifth and 37th minute to hand Matansa the lead at the break.

When the game resumed, Matansa lost the upper hand, as Kanoa, which bowed to Shirley's FC in the opening week, rallied behind the two goals of Ian Maniago and Davy Laxa. Laxa hit the board in the 54th minute, while Maniago's equalizer came in the 71st and the go-ahead was recorded four minutes later.



Japanese professional coach Hana Okimoto gestures to two Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japanese professional coach Hana Okimoto assists a Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan member.



Rays force do-or-die Game 5 against Astros

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Popovich lauds
Silver's response
to China over
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

3 battle for MVP award

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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hree players are in a close battle for the regular season MVP award halfway through the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League.

Mystique BBQ's Jetzen Jandoc leads the statistical points in the 10-team league with his 38.4 SP and

breathing down his neck are The Game's Mak Mintac and

MRBL-

Saipan Vegas' Coby Santos, who have similar 37.8 SP. The statistical points (combined points, rebounds, as-

sists and steals) are part of the league's selection criteria for

the regular season MVP. The record of the players' respective teams, coaches votes, and Player of The Game awards will also be considered in picking the top player in the league after the elimination round.

In four games, Jandoc has scored 84 points and posted 15 assists, 13 steals, and 40 rebounds. Santos, on the other hand, has reached past the century mark in points, collecting 107 in five games, and registered 25 assists, 23 steals, and

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TanHoldings FC ahead; Southern draws Kanoa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com



Tan Holdings Football Club is on top of

two divisions, while Kanoa Football Club and Southern United Football Club engaged in a draw in Week 4 action in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings kept the upper hand in the girls U16 age group following a 3-0 victory over Matansa Football Club. Mary Joy Aniana, Rizza Relucio, and Allyssya Mae Angeles scored for TanHoldings, which now holds a 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record to lead Kanoa (3-1-0), Southern United (2-1-1), Shirley's FC (1-0-3), MP United (1-0-3), and Matansa (0-0-4).

Kanoa dropped to second place after being forced to a draw by Southern United last weekend, 2-2. Erin Frink made the pair of goals for Southern United, delivering



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Khristelle Itaas, left, and Southern United Football Club's Nathanette Blas fight for possession during their game in the girls U16 division of the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

her first in the 45th minute and the equalizer in the 56th. Kanoa's two goals came from Lynzey Green and

Sharmaine Francisco, who

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We Are Groot, Black Panthers win

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER



We Are Groot and Black Panthers won their respective matches in the

Avengers Volleyball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

We Are Groot topped The Revengers in two sets and needed three to outclass Straight Outta Nowhere. Black Panthers, on the other hand, took only two sets to prevail against D'Challengers and Iron Spike.

The We Are Groot-Revengers tiff was played last Oct. 2 with the former posting a 25-20 win in the first set. We Are Groot went on to complete the sweep after a close 25-23 triumph in the second set. Then last Friday, We Are Groot edged Straight Outta Nowhere in the opening set, 26-24, while the latter remained in contention after a 25-17 win in the second set. In the deciding third

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

As Guardians' Alfredo Guevarra receives a serve from the Old Aces during their game in the Avengers Volleyball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.